BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. | Estd. 1838 | VOL. 43 NO. 60 BENGALURU | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 28 | PRICE ₹5**

THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUDES 4 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES

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BCCI announces ₹131cr cash reward for Suryakumar-led Team India following its 3rd T20 World Cup victory. Fifteen players likely to receive ₹6cr each, support staff to be paid from remaining ₹41cr, P 23

Both Russia and Ukraine claim front-line progress in their over 4-year-old war even as **US-brokered talks between the two are on hold** as Washington's attention is focused on Iran war, P 17

Canadian cops investigate gunfire at US consulate in Toronto early Tuesday. Two suspects drive up in SUV, fire multiple shots, and flee. **Security beefed up at US and Israeli consulates**, P 17

SC adjourns hearing on plea challenging preventive detention of Sonam Wangchuk by a week. Says 'no matter what', bench will wrap up hearing and reserve verdict on March 17. Wife's plea listed 24 times in past 5 months, P 9

K'taka govt cuts 1st PU pass marks from 35 to 33

Karnataka govt has reduced the pass marks for I PU exams from 35 to 33, extending a rule already applied to SSLC and II PU, to align with other boards such as CBSE. The move that will benefit about six lakh students, aims to ensure uniformity in evaluation. The change will be reflected in the Karnataka Pre-University Examination Rules, 2025. P 5

Ahead of polls, Assam govt gives ₹9k to 40L women

The BJP govt in Assam transferred Rs 9,000 each to the accounts of 40 lakh poor women under its Orunodoi scheme, possibly the last such disbursal before polls. It covers payouts for Jan, Feb, March, and April in advance – plus a Bihu bonus of Rs 4,000. TNN

Silk Board-Ragigudda flyover to open soon

The full stretch of Bengaluru's first double-decker flyover is set for opening by this month-end, with BMRCL completing the remaining 3.5-km stretch between Silk Board & Ragigudda. The project is set to ease congestion at Silk Board junction. P 4

Loan app behind youth's suicide?

A 21-year-old man from Kerala's Aryanad, who had consumed acid last week, died on Monday. Family members said Anand had received calls and messages from loan app representatives who threatened to circulate morphed images. TNN

Pak terrorist killed trying to cross LoC

Acting on intelligence inputs, alert Army personnel foiled an infiltration attempt along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jhangar, in Rajouri's Nowshera, and shot dead one Pakistani terrorist on Tuesday. TNN

TURN TO P 22

In crunch, govt says domestic PNG, CNG, LPG prodn priority

Invokes Essential Commodities Act To Reallocate Gas Supply

Atul Mathur & Dipak Dash | TNN

New Delhi: Facing a severe LNG (liquefied natural gas) crunch, govt Tuesday invoked the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, to reallocate gas supply and slashed allocation for fertiliser and other industries, while seeking to ensure full availability for priority sectors such as domestic piped natural gas (PNG) for kitchens, compressed natural gas (CNG) for transport and LPG production.

The decision came days after the petroleum ministry insisted that supplies were comfortable, and it was seeking more flows from countries such as Canada and Australia amid outages in Qatar, the top source of LNG for India.

Hours after the notification, PM Modi met petroleum minister Hardeep Puri and external affairs minister S Jaishankar for an assessment of the geopolitical situation and its impact on energy flows.

During a Cabinet meeting earlier in the day, Modi asked his colleagues to take stock of the situation in their respective ministries and interact with all stakeholders to ensure people do not suffer because of the conflict in West Asia, and work collectively to deal with the situation.

While fertiliser units, many of which are advancing their shutdown, will be supplied 70% of their average consumption in the last six months, the availability for industrial units will be 80% of the average for the last six months.

FULL COVERAGE PAGES 3, 17, 18 & 20

▶Explore other routes, P 14

WAR MOSTLY OVER: TRUMP; WE WILL DECIDE: IRAN

Photo: AFP

A displaced family shelters in a makeshift encampment along the waterfront in Beirut. **More than 6.7 lakh people have been displaced in Lebanon**, and 84 children have been killed in the ongoing conflict, two UN agencies said

- In a report to congressional committees, Trump admn says it **used $5.6 billion in munitions in first two days of strikes against Iran**
- Trump says **some sanctions on oil producers to be lifted**, but doesn't specify which countries qualify. Washington currently maintains sanctions on oil sectors of Russia, Iran and Venezuela
- **Brent crude**, the global oil benchmark, **eases to $88 a barrel,** a day after rising to 3-year high of $120
- **Sensex, Nifty end nearly 1% higher** after drop in crude prices. Sensex jumps 640 pts to close at 78,205. Nifty climbs 234 pts to end at 24,261
- **Rupee stages strong recovery** from record low on Monday (92.35), settles at 91.85 against dollar
- **India supplies 5,000 tonnes of diesel to Bangladesh** through Friendship Pipeline

"The war is very complete, pretty much... They have no navy, no communications...no air force. They have shot everything they have... they better not try anything cute or it's going to be the end of that country
—Prez Trump

"It is we who will determine the end of the war. The equations and future status of the region are now in the hands of our armed forces; American forces will not end the war
—Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard

Eateries trim menus, face temporary shutdown as LPG supply affected

Mumbai/Bengaluru: The war in West Asia has hit home for restaurants across the country. A severe crunch of LPG supplies means a temporary shutdown for some, while many have already moved to induction cookers to stay afloat or restricted menu choices to do away with slow-cooking items like pooris and dosas, **report Asmita Dey** and **Supriya Roy**.

Anjan Chatterjee, founder of Speciality Restaurants which owns brands such as Mainland China and Oh! Calcutta said Bengaluru and Chennai have been the most impacted markets for the company with certain parts of Delhi and Kolkata also facing supply disruption.

For now, kitchens are making do with induction and rice cookers but if supplies don't become adequately available in a day or two, restaurants will have to close down, said Chatterjee. "About 70% of my food is Chinese. For that, we need high-pressure gas burners. No gas, no cooking," he said.

GAIL cuts gas supply to Yelahanka plant

Production at the Yelahanka Gas Power Plant in North Bengaluru will be affected with GAIL deciding to halt gas supply from Wednesday. The plant, which has been supplying about 370 MW of power to the city since Sept 2024, will suspend operations. Energy department addl chief secretary Gaurav Gupta said the govt is prepared to handle the situation. P 3

▶Eateries may shut, P 14

Cooking gas output increases 10% after govt's nudge to refiners

New Delhi: Cooking gas production has increased by 10% since the govt issued directives to oil refiners to divert all components used in LPG production to fill the supply gap caused by the West Asia war, officials said on Tuesday.

Acknowledging complaints of a shortage of commercial LPG cylinders through social media from various sectors, especially hotels and restaurants, govt has formed a three-member committee to assess the situation, **reports Atul Mathur**. Officials maintained that gas agencies have enough LPG stock but admitted to "supply management issues" with commercial cylinders. The committee will have one executive director each from three state-run oil companies.

▶Supply to households, P 14

SC sets up judicial tribunals to hear Bengal SIR appeals

'No Bureaucrat To Review Judicial Officers' Rulings'

New Delhi: Exercising exclusive Art 142 powers, Supreme Court Tuesday ordered setting up of tribunals comprising retired Chief Justice and ex-judges of Calcutta and neighbouring HCs to decide appeals against judicial officers' orders rejecting claims for inclusion in the Bengal voter list post special intensive revision, **reports Dhananjay Mahapatra**.

A bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justices R Mahadevan and Joymalya Bagchi stuck to its order that no bureaucrat acting as ERO would sit in appeal against rulings of judicial officers drafted to scan documents of 60 lakh voters in 'logical discrepancy' and 'unmapped' category.

▶10L voter claim, P 14

INVOKES ART 142

- SC warns of contempt over raft of pleas from TMC backers and others relating to SIR work
- Also unhappy over EC's delay in creation of secure IDs for judicial officers

"A stage has come where we have doubts about the bona fides of both state govt & Election Commission — SC bench

Mamata hails ruling, calls off protest

Hailing SC's order as "people's victory" that will open the "closed door" for those stripped of their voting rights, CM Mamata Banerjee Tuesday called off her sit-in protest against "forced deletion" of names from the state's voters' list that she launched on March 6. TNN

IndiGo CEO quits, founder Bhatia to be interim head

IndiGo CEO **Pieter Elbers** Tuesday resigned from the airline with immediate effect, three months after the carrier's unprecedented domestic schedule collapse that had left lakhs of passengers stranded at airports across its network. Airline founder and MD Rahul Bhatia will be the interim CEO till a replacement is found.

- **Air India, AI Express tickets to cost more, P 14**

In an internal mail to employees sent on Tuesday, Bhatia said: "What happened last Dec should never have taken place.... Our customers didn't deserve it and nor did all of you, especially the frontline employees who bore most of the brunt for no fault of theirs..." Elbers' resignation letter to Bhatia said he will be available for any handover or transition. P 20

LS TAKES UP MOTION TO REMOVE SPEAKER

Birla partisan, LoP cut off 20 times, says Cong's Gogoi

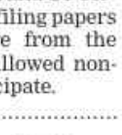
New Delhi: The Lok Sabha on Tuesday took up the opposition's resolution on removal of Speaker Om Birla amid a heated debate over who should preside while the House discussed him. Opening the debate, Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi accused Birla of partisan behaviour. He said the Speaker made "baseless" allegations against women opposition MPs and repeatedly blocked Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi from raising "critical issues" in the House. Gogoi said the LoP was interrupted 20 times by the Speaker, panel members and treasury MPs during his motion-of-thanks speech.

As soon as Congress member Mohammad Jawed read out the notice seeking to move the resolution, AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi raised a point of order, questioning the decision to allow BJP's Jagdambika Pal to chair proceedings as he was appointed to the panel of chairpersons by Birla. TNN

▶Oppn questions Speaker's conduct, P 14

Rahul attacking institutions as he can't win polls: Min

New Delhi: The governing NDA Tuesday came down heavily on Rahul Gandhi over the no-confidence motion against Speaker Om Birla, with parliamentary affairs minister **Kiren Rijiju** saying the leader of the opposition was attacking democratic institutions because of the realisation that there is no way he could lead his party to win an election.



Rijiju said Priyanka Gandhi Vadra would have been a better choice for leading the Congress and accused Rahul of publicly seeking foreign intervention to fight the alleged threat to democracy in India.

The governing coalition sought to frame the no-confidence motion as yet another instance of Rahul Gandhi railroading his Congress colleagues and others in the opposition to support his whim, with Rijiju claiming that at least 50 opposition MPs had confided in him their misgivings about the move against Birla. TNN

▶Undermining dignity of Parl: Rijiju, P 14

UCC best remedy for discrimination against women in personal laws: SC

New Delhi: In yet another strong pitch for "one nation one law", SC Tuesday said Uniform Civil Code is the most effective tool to remove the prevailing discrimination of women in marriage, succession, inheritance and property rights under the Muslim personal law and other customary laws, **reports Dhananjay Mahapatra**.

This statement — "most effective answer is UCC" — came from a bench of CJI Surya Kant, Justices R Mahadevan and Joymalya Bagchi after advocate Prashant Bhushan said inferior inheritance rights given to women under the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937, violated their right to equality and non-discrimination, & hence, must be struck down as unconstitutional.

▶Grounds of divorce, P 9

State govt introduces bill to ban EVMs in panchayat polls, seeks paper ballots

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Paper ballots may make a partial comeback to Karnataka's electoral process after 11 years, with the Karnataka govt Tuesday introducing a bill to ban the use of electronic voting machines (EVMs) in the forthcoming panchayat polls.

The decision is in line with the Congress party's national 'vote chori' campaign led by Rahul Gandhi. The party has sought scrapping of EVMs in local body and panchayat elections, citing erosion of confidence and credibility among a section of voters over use of voting machines.

The bill also removes the provision that allows preparation of electoral rolls by the election commission. Instead, electoral rolls will now be prepared by the assistant commissioner of zilla panchayat.

AFTER 11 YEARS

- Paper ballots may return to panchayat polls **after 11 years**
- Move aligns with **Congress party's national campaign** questioning credibility of EVMs
- Proposed amendment **removes references to EVMs, mandates voting via ballots**
- Bill **moves responsibility of preparing poll rolls from EC** to assistant commissioner of ZP
- Move **expected to spark a political row** in Karnataka, with BJP calling it regressive

Polls to zilla and taluk panchayats have been overdue for nearly five years now. The proposed amendment to the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act has removed all references to EVMs and replaced those with provisions for voting through ballots.

▶Secrecy of ballot, P 5

Govt eases norms for Chinese FDI, nod in 60 days for select sectors

New Delhi: Union cabinet Tuesday eased norms governing investments from China & other countries sharing a land border with India, to provide for faster approvals in "strategic sectors", while fast-tracking inflows when the entity from across the border holds under 10% and is a non-controlling shareholder.

Govt has amended Press Note 3, which was issued in 2020 to prevent takeover of Indian firms by Chinese entities during Covid-19 crisis. It said that in sectors such as capital goods, electronic capital goods, electronic components, polysilicon and ingot-wafer, proposals will be cleared within 60 days, while ensuring that majority shareholding and control remains with resident Indian citizens or entities controlled by them. TNN

▶Ease of biz, P 20

Flagging dangers of social media, SC to hear Centre plea on fact-check units

New Delhi: SC Tuesday agreed to test correctness of a Bombay HC judgment striking down amendments to Information and Technology Rules that allowed Centre to set up fact-check units to flag fake social media content that would make it obligatory for intermediaries to take down the content or lose 'safe harbour' protection, **reports Dhananjay Mahapatra.**

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta told SC Centre does not intend to block social media platforms but limit the harm caused to individual, institutional and national reputation through fake social media posts, which could be curbed through FCUs.

▶'Ruin reputation', P 9

IN THE COURTS

- **Karnataka HC refuses to quash criminal proceedings** against three persons, including a radiologist, in a case related to an alleged **sex determination test** | P 4
- In an interim order, Karnataka **HC asks RGUHS to restrain its senate members** from holding affiliation inspection | P 5
- SC asks Centre to **frame compensation policy** for those who suffered serious adverse events after **Covid vaccination** | P 9
- SC grants **bail to father of minor** alleged to be driving **Porsche** involved in Pune accident that killed 2 | P 12

2 die in clashes in Meghalaya; Army called in

Army was called in and mobile internet services were blocked in Meghalaya's West Garo Hills Tuesday and after two people died in overnight violence involving the Garo community and supporters of non-tribal candidates seeking to contest the April 10 elections to the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council, **report Prabin Kalita & Manosh Das**. CM Conrad Sangma's National People's Party currently administers the council.

The two sides clashed despite a night curfew enforced to defuse tensions triggered by an official notification requiring candidates to produce valid ST certificates while filing papers — a departure from the practice that allowed non-tribals to participate.

Dead turtles wash ashore in Odisha

Nearly 1,500 carcasses of Olive Ridley sea turtles washed ashore along a 25km stretch from Jatadhari river mouth in Odisha's Jagatsinghpur to Eakakula beach in Kendrapada. The turtles got caught in fishing nets. TNN

TOI HEALTH+
Why lifestyle & diet may hold keys to reducing risk of breast cancer
Why Tourette's syndrome 'tics' are not bad behaviour
Can camels give us a new, powerful dengue antidote?
+ much more, on P 10

'Brain-dead' woman jolted back to life by pothole

Keshav Agarwal | TNN

Pilibhit: A pothole on Bareilly-Haridwar NH-74 turned out to be a blessing for a 50-year-old woman from Uttar Pradesh, reviving her, quite literally, after there was clinically "no sign of life in her".

Declared 'brain-dead' by doctors and discharged from a Bareilly hospital with almost "no hope of survival", Vineeta Shukla was being brought back home by her mournful husband, Kuldeep Kumar Shukla, on Feb 24, when the ambulance struck upon the pothole-riddled stretch of the highway. Then, a sudden, violent jerk did the unthinkable.

"I told my family to prepare for her last rites. She was not breathing, there was only a sinking heartbeat. As the ambulance reached Hafizganj, it struck a large pothole and the vehicle moved violently," her husband told **TOI** on Tuesday.

Vineeta with Dr Rakesh Singh and her husband Kumar Shukla

The next moment, Kuldeep said, was nothing short of a miracle. "My wife started breathing normally again... I immediately informed my family to suspend all the funeral preparations," he said.

▶Brainstem reflexes, P 14

Himachal teen wrestles with leopard, kills it

Shimla: With raw courage and bare hands, an 18-year-old ITI student fought off and killed a leopard after being attacked in Himachal's Solan, **reports Sanjeev Verma**. The 3-year-old leopard pounced on Parvesh Sharma when he was out to fetch milk Monday. The youngster grappled with the predator, kept its teeth away from his neck, and clobbered it on the head with every rock and stone he could lay his hands on until the leopard died.

Parvesh, in the 2nd year of an electrician course, lives in Sarli, 60km from Shimla. He was 25 metres from his home when he saw from the corner of his eyes what looked like a blur leap at him.

▶Blocked jaws, P 9

CBSE maths paper QR code 'Rickrolls' students

Meghna.Dhulia
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A QR code printed on the CBSE Class XII mathematics paper on March 9 unexpectedly led students to a YouTube clip associated with the internet prank 'Rickrolling', featuring a segment of British pop star Rick Astley's 1987 hit *Never Gonna Give You Up*.

As students raised concerns, CBSE's controller of examinations Sanyam Bhard said Tuesday the link was "an inadvertent error", assuring everyone the paper wasn't "compromised". CBSE said the matter was "viewed very seriously" and steps were being taken to ensure similar issues do not arise in the future.

▶Sparks memes, P 14

Students said scanning the code led them to Rick Astley's 1987 hit

NCERT apologises for judiciary chapter

NCERT Tuesday issued an "unconditional and unqualified apology" and withdrew its recently published Class VIII social science textbook after SC objected to a chapter describing corruption, massive case backlog and shortage of judges as challenges faced by the judicial system. TNN

Let culture spread: SC junks PeTA's kambala plea

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru/New Delhi: Supreme Court Tuesday refused to entertain a petition filed by People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PeTA) India challenging the holding of the traditional buffalo racing sport kambala outside the coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi in Karnataka. The plea was filed after organisers proposed holding a kambala event at Bangalore Palace Grounds.

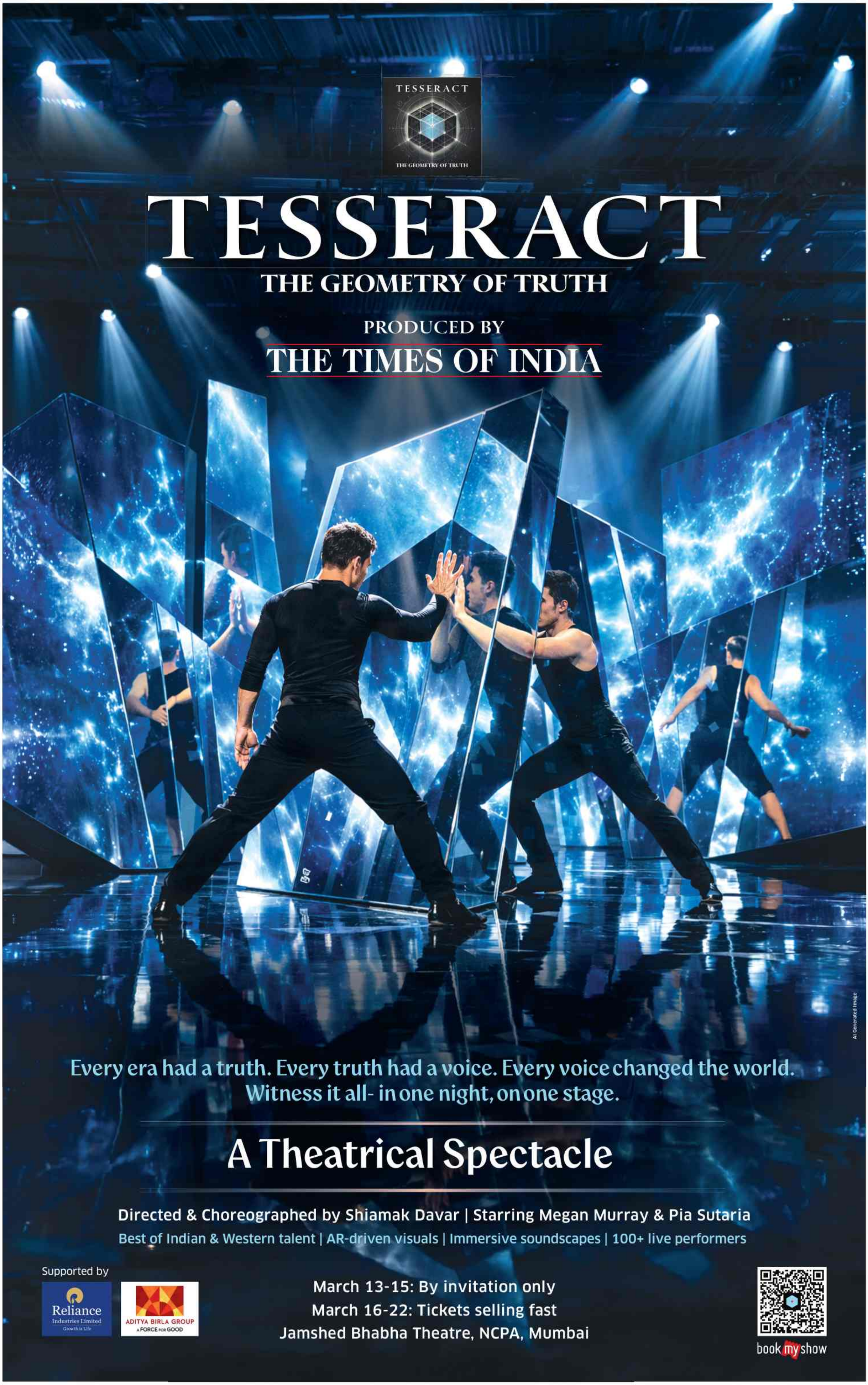
A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta declined to entertain a petition that challenged a Nov 14 order of the Karnataka high court allowing the races to be held outside the two coastal districts.

The high court had observed that the traditional sport could be showcased in other parts of the state as well. During the hearing, counsel for PeTA argued that kambala was historically linked to the coastal districts and allowing it elsewhere diluted its traditional character.

"If the culture is to be showcased in different parts of the state, what is wrong (in that)? Let people in other parts of the state be familiar with the culture. Why restrict it to a particular area? ...One of these days, we may put some questions to PeTA also — SC

The bench, however, questioned the objection.

▶Put questions, P 5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WEST ASIA CONFLICT FALLOUT: GAS SHORTAGE FORCES EATERIES TO TRIM MENUS AND DROP POPULAR DISHES | FUEL SCARCITY SPARKS CONFUSION AND UNCERTAINTY

GLOBAL TENSION, LOCAL BITE
War punctures pooris, vadas

Hamsaveni.N@timesofindia.com

Credit: PTI, Reuters

A worker carries LPG cylinders inside a restaurant in Bengaluru. Hotels and eateries have raised concerns over the shortage of commercial LPG supply; (L) A griddle is switched off to conserve gas inside Vidyarthi Bhavan

Bengaluru: The ongoing LPG shortage in the tech capital, reportedly triggered by speculation over the prolonged war in West Asia, is now hitting the city's food plates and, one beloved dish is already feeling the heat: the humble poori.

For the second consecutive day, several darshinis and restaurants across the city said they did not receive commercial LPG cylinders, while a few others got barely half of their usual supply. With kitchens running low on fuel, many eateries have begun trimming their menus, temporarily dropping items that require prolonged gas usage.

Deep-fried favourites such as poori and vada are among the first casualties. Hoteliers say these items consume more gas because oil must be heated and kept at high temperatures for long periods. To stretch the limited supply and keep operations going, many restaurants are focusing instead on items like idli, dosa and meals that require comparatively less fuel.

Arun Adiga of Vidyarthi Bhavan in Basavanagudi said the shortage has forced them to drastically ration gas usage. "We haven't received any gas since Monday and are managing only with the stock we have. Out of our four dosa burners, we've switched off two. Poori has also been reduced because it needs more gas. If supply doesn't resume, we can manage only until Wednesday evening," he said.

The situation is similar in other parts of the city. A darshini owner in east Bengaluru said supply had completely dried up. "We are being asked to pay almost double the usual price for cylinders. I don't have gas for the evening service. For now, I've cut several items and am serving only meals, idli and dosa," he said. Even restaurants that serve non-vegetarian are contemplating reducing deep-fried items.

> The situation has seen little improvement since Monday. Stocks at many restaurants are nearly exhausted and distributors report supplies are running dry. Several establishments have already started shutting down or trimming menus to conserve their remaining LPG. Most restaurants keep backup stock for just 1-3 days due to space and safety constraints, so any prolonged disruption can significantly affect operations
> **Ananth Narayan** | PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL RESTAURANTS' ASSOCIATION OF INDIA, BENGALURU CHAPTER

> Around 2,800 PGs fall under this association. Currently, we have stock for 3-4 days, but we're being cautious with gas usage. We're exploring alternative options, as we cannot risk running out of food for residents, and we want to avoid hiking prices. For now, the measure in place is menu adjustments: items that require more gas to cook, such as dosa and poori, are temporarily replaced with dishes that need less
> **Arun Kumar DT** | PRESIDENT, PG OWNERS WELFARE ASSOCIATION (REGD), BENGALURU

> We held a video conference with one of the major LPG distributors for our hotels, and they could not confirm when commercial supplies will resume. Stock is currently very low. A few hotels have shut down, while the majority have significantly reduced their menu offerings to keep operations running
> **PC Rao** | HONORARY PRESIDENT, BANGALORE HOTELS ASSOCIATION

Prices soar amid shortage

After the tensions in West Asia, commercial LPG price was revised thrice in March, and according to users, the final price as on March 9, for 19kg LPG commercial cylinder, was Rs 1,900. However, a few restaurants told **TOI** that dealers themselves increased the price after the shortage in the supply.

Sandeep Jain, MD of Desi Masala food chain, said: "The price of a 19kg commercial LPG cylinder was around Rs 1,600 earlier and went up to about Rs 1,900 recently. But this morning we were told the price shot up to nearly Rs 3,400–Rs 3,500 per cylinder. For a restaurant chain like ours that uses around 50 cylinders a day, this means an additional cost of nearly Rs 80,000 to Rs 90,000 per day. It is almost impossible to sustain such a sudden jump. If this continues, restaurants will have no option but to increase prices for customers just to survive."

Another hotel in Marathahalli told **TOI** that they paid Rs 3,000 for a 19kg LPG cylinder. "On Monday, our supply was hit, and by night I ran out of gas, and then I tried buying it. I was forced to pay close to Rs 3,000 for one cylinder. I wish the govt intervenes at the earliest. There is no stocking of gas, else it will become a major problem."

Shakir Haq, MD of Empire Hotel, said: "Since Tuesday morning, we saw a clear disruption in the supply of commercial LPG cylinders, with fulfilment dropping to less than 50%. On Monday, we received supplies as orders were already placed earlier, but Tuesdat the shortage was felt across our outlets in Bengaluru and Mysuru. The uncertainty is the biggest challenge because restaurants cannot plan ahead without assured gas supply. If this continues, it could become an alarming situation similar to Covid times, as without LPG we cannot even cook food for our employees, let alone serve customers."

Power supply on the blink as GAIL cuts gas supply to Yelahanka plant

Niranjan.Kaggere
@timesofindia.com

TOI

FUTURE TENSE: The plant will shut operations from Wednesday

Officials maintained that GAIL would supply gas on priority to domestic consumers, fertiliser industry, commercial establishments, automobiles, power plants and industries

Bengaluru: Production at Yelahanka Gas Power Plant in north Bengaluru — which is seen as a crucial backup to manage peak electricity loads in the city between Dec and April — will take a hit with Gas Authority of India deciding to halt gas supply to the unit from Wednesday.

The state's first gas-based power plant has been generating 370 MW of electricity daily for Bengaluru grid since Sept 2024. The plant will shut operations from Wednesday following suspension of gas supply, according to officials from Karnataka Power Corporation.

Allaying fears of a crisis, Gaurav Gupta, additional chief secretary of the energy department, said the govt is fully prepared to handle this "unforeseen" situation. "The govt has put in place enough measures, including barter of energy from other states, including Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, to meet the surging demand," he said.

Sources confirmed the ongoing crisis in West Asia has affected gas availability. "GAIL authorities expressed difficulty in supplying gas to the power station until further notice, as they put in place a policy or protocol prioritising domestic and other users," explained an official from the energy department.

Officials said GAIL would supply gas on priority to domestic consumers, fertiliser industry, commercial establishments, automobiles, industries and power plants.

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company purchased power from the Yelahanka plant at about Rs 8 per kWh, despite the higher cost, to support the city's growing demand. Of the plant's 370 MW installed capacity, 236.82 MW is generated through a gas turbine and 133.22 MW through a steam turbine generator. The facility produced roughly 2,600 to 2,700 million units of electricity annually at 85% plant load factor. "In the absence of gas supply, we have to shut the plant just like any other thermal plant which is closed due to outages. This will not impact Bengaluru as its load will be met through other plants, including thermal and hydel plants, along with abundant renewable energy during summer months," said an engineer.

CM, DCM highlight LPG crunch, demand Centre's intervention

Chief minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar Tuesday raised concerns over the shortage of commercial LPG cylinders in Bengaluru, warning that restaurants, hotels and catering services could face temporary closure if supplies are not restored soon.

Siddaramaiah has written to Union petroleum and natural gas minister Hardeep Singh Puri, seeking urgent intervention. He said a revised order by the petroleum ministry prioritising domestic LPG supply appears to have caused an unintended shortage for commercial users. "While the intention behind the order to ensure uninterrupted LPG supply to households across the country is well understood and appreciated, its implementation appears to have led to an unintended shortage of commercial LPG in Bengaluru. Several hotels and restaurant associations in the city have reported that they are unable to procure commercial LPG cylinders, and many establishments are expressing concern that they may have to temporarily shut operations if supplies are not restored soon," the letter said.

Shivakumar said the shortage has become a serious concern and urged MPs from Karnataka to raise the issue in Parliament. TNN

GAIL connections unaffected for now

Hotels with GAIL pipeline connections are faring relatively better. According to GAIL, Bengaluru has 4,000 commercial connections, mostly for hotels and restaurants. An official said the company has not received any govnt directive to restrict pipeline gas supply. "There is currently no disruption in supply from GAIL, and we will continue supplying all connections." TNN

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Trouble brewing for auto drivers

Auto LPG stations in the city said they've begun facing disruptions in gas supply, raising concerns among autorickshaw drivers. Drivers alleged several auto LPG outlets arbitrarily increased fuel prices following supply shortage. Some stations put up notices saying stocks were unavailable.

CN Sreenivas, president of Autorickshaw Drivers' Union, said auto LPG price has gone up from Rs 15 to Rs 20 per litre in some stations.

An owner of an auto LPG station said supply disruptions have been reported in the city over the past three days.

Getty Images

RUSH HOUR: Some drivers alleged several auto LPG outlets arbitrarily increased fuel prices following supply shortage. Some stations put up notices saying stocks were unavailable

No shortage of fuel: Traders

Akhila Karnataka Federation of Petroleum Traders (AKFPT) Tuesday said there is "absolutely no shortage of petrol and diesel anywhere in Karnataka as of now".

A release from the federation said Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL) have adequate stocks across their supply terminals and depots in the state.

Traders urged the public not to panic or indulge in unnecessary bulk purchasing as the fuel supply chain across Karnataka is stable.

Unsafe roads and garbage dumps: RWAs flag civic woes at Horamavu

Vindhya.Pabolu
@timesofindia.com

TOI

Bengaluru: Broken footpaths, dug-up roads and dust make daily movement risky for residents in Horamavu and nearby areas of northeast Bengaluru. With accidents becoming the new normal, the Horamavu–Ramamurthy Nagar Resident Welfare Associations collective wrote to Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) recently, seeking funds to build 50km of footpaths and update the solid waste management (SWM) micro plan, saying the current capacity is based on outdated 2017 estimates.

In a letter on March 3, the associations flagged roads, including Horamavu–Kalkere–Rampura Main Road, Hennur–Horamavu Agara–NPS School Road, TC Palya Main Road, Ramamurthy Nagar Main Road, Babusapalya Main Road and Banjara Main Road. Residents cited years of neglect and incomplete asphalting after utility works, making it risky for motorists.

Prakash Aradhys, 50, a sales professional, said, "Every area has damaged footpaths due to ongoing construction. We should not even call them footpaths. Actually, they are just drains covered with slabs. I tripped recently while walking. For the last 3-4 years, nothing has improved. Drains are clogged and roads damaged. BWSSB digging for new connections has left unpaved stretches raising dust. Women are tripping repeatedly — it's exhausting."

Sunil Kumar, 44, former secretary of JR Amaze Apartments, said, "Roads near Horamavu lake are in bad shape. One stretch has no proper road at all — just mud. There are 4-5 schools here, making it unsafe for kids. The underpass near Babusapalya is largely completed but has been closed for months, causing traffic jams and garbage dumping. Asphalting was not done in some areas, and the lake is in a poor condition with no benches."

Road underbridge turns trash haven

Residents also complained that Babusapalya road underbridge (RUB), which was not operational, turned into a garbage dumping and burning yard. Even after part of the road was tarred eight months ago, railway clearance is still awaited.

Shrikanth D, secretary of Mallappa Layout RWA, said, "Officials are passing the buck while the area became an unofficial garbage dump. Waste piles are left uncleared, and frequent burning has made the air unbearable. Despite repeated complaints, no action has been taken. Senior citizens and children are most affected, and we don't know what to do to get the authorities to act."

Kochu Sankar, a representative of the RWAs collective, said: "Shops and encroachments have left most roads without proper footpaths, making walking unsafe. In our three wards — Kalkere, Ramamurthy Nagar, and Formauti — about 10 large RWAs, along with several big apartment complexes, with many using footpaths, are suffering. Many have fallen and injured themselves, especially elders. Officials often talk about beautification, but outer areas like ours are neglected. This is the first time footpaths are being proposed here, and residents want the same attention that other zones receive."

A GBA East corporation official said: "We took note of the issues. We are awaiting grants.We will solve the issue as soon as we can."

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Double delight: Silk Board flyover to fully open soon

Final Works May Be Over By March 22

State govt yet to release funds, say officials

Suchith.Kidiyoor
@timesofindia.com

INFRA BOOST: In June 2024, without much fanfare, the govt opened one side of the double-decker flyover from Ragigudda to Silk Board, including a ramp built above Silk Board flyover junction

Bengaluru: The city's first double-decker flyover is set to fully open for motorists soon. Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), which spent over six years constructing the structure as part of the operational Namma Metro Yellow Line corridor, is preparing to open the remaining 3.5-km stretch from Silk Board junction to Ragigudda by the end of March.

An official from BMRCL said the project is in the advanced stage of completion. "The carriageway works, including road laying, are complete, and the remaining works will be wrapped up by March 22. Once clearance is obtained from traffic police, the corridor will be opened for vehicular movement from HSR Layout towards Ragigudda," the official said.

In June 2024, without much fanfare, the govt opened one side of the double-decker flyover from Ragigudda to Silk Board, including a ramp built above Silk Board flyover junction.

The opening of this nearly 5-km stretch helped motorists travel towards HSR Layout and Bommanahalli on Hosur Road without stopping at the traffic signal at Silk Board junction.

BMRCL earlier announced multiple deadlines to open the parallel stretch from HSR Layout side to Ragigudda; however, factors such as design changes, traffic restrictions, heavy rainfall and other constraints resulted in delays.

A traffic police official said partial opening of the double-decker already eased congestion at Silk Board junction. "Full-fledged opening of the flyover will further reduce traffic pressure. The opening of Silk Board to Ragigudda stretch will benefit vehicles heading towards BTM Layout, Jayanagar, JP Nagar and Banashankari. At present, traffic piles up below Silk Board junction," the official said, adding BMRCL will hand over the project for traffic movement by the end of the month. "Finishing works such as installation of signage are pending, and the stretch will be opened after necessary clearances from the authorities concerned."

Though the earlier stretch opened quietly in 2024, BMRCL sources said there are chances of a formal inauguration this time, as the double-decker flyover is one of the city's major road infrastructure projects.

While traffic congestion at Silk Board junction is expected to ease, handling the traffic flow beyond Ragigudda Metro Station may remain a concern as Marenahalli Road and the connecting roads are already prone to heavy traffic congestion.

Based on assurances from the govt, BMRCL took up construction of the project to ease congestion at multiple locations along the Yellow Line Metro alignment, including Jayadeva Junction, BTM and Silk Board. For construction of the Metro line and the double-decker structure, BMRCL also demolished Jayadeva flyover.

The govt entrusted BMRCL with two projects: building the road flyover as part of the double-decker corridor and constructing an underpass at Challaghatta. "Both the projects, estimated to cost Rs 509 crore, including Rs 50 crore for the underpass, were entrusted to BMRCL with a promise that the state govt would bear the cost that was earlier under Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike. During the high-power committee meetings, BMRCL repeatedly reminded the govt to release the funds, but so far no money has been given. However, in the coming days, the govt is likely to release the funds," officials said.

In the upcoming Namma Metro Orange line, BMRCL is also planning a 37-km double-decker corridor. Under the project, the new Metro line will be built from Kempapura to JP Nagar and from Hoshalli to Kadabagere on Magadi Road.

Late actor's kin booked for beating man with broom

Bengaluru: Police recently booked the daughter-in-law of late Kannada actor and producer Dwarakish on charges of beating a 64-year-old man with a broom after he wanted his investment back in a chit fund run by her mother. Varsha Rai is the wife of Samarth Dwarakish, police said.

Following the man's complaint, more persons approached police, accusing her of cheating them too. Three FIRs were registered against Varsha and her mother, Ratna Basavaraju, for duping victims of Rs 15 lakh. "Complainants befriended Varsha and Ratna at the latter's grocery shop in RR Nagar. Promised good returns, they invested in the chit fund. But the duo failed to repay them. Varsha allegedly beat up a victim, Venkataramana Reddy, when he went near their shop asking for his money," an officer said. TNN

ALMANAC (11.3.2026)

Kumbha Masa 27 Shri Vishvavasu Nama Samvatsara – Uttarayana – Shishira Ritu – Tithi: Phalguna Krishna Ashtami h. 28-20 Nakshatra: Jyestha h. 22-00 Yoga: Vajra h. 9-12. 21 Ramadan Kali Day 1872645

Rahu Kalam Noon-1.30pm

— KL Vidya Shankara Somayaji

K'taka tightens blood safety norms, starts tests in hosps

Jahnavi@timesofindia.com

WHY CERTIFICATIONS ARE A MUST

- Blood collection, testing, storage and transfusion must follow strict quality and safety standards
- Centres must follow standard protocols for donor screening, infection testing, storage and traceability of blood units
- Licences of blood banks will be cancelled if they fail to obtain accreditation or certification within 1 year

Karnataka has 266 blood centres, and 223 of them are private. With 85 centres (72 private and 13 govt), Bengaluru has the highest concentration of blood banks, followed by Belagavi, Bagalkot, Dakshina Kannada and Kalaburagi districts

Bengaluru: Karnataka govt is set to introduce tough measures, including introduction of global protocols, accreditation and appointment of district-level officers, to make blood transfusion foolproof. The move follows recent reports of two thalassaemia patients in Haryana's Faridabad allegedly contracting HIV after receiving infected blood during transfusion.

Karnataka State Blood Transfusion Council has, in recent govt orders, mandated that all blood banks must obtain accreditation from National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers or certification under National Quality Assurance Standards programme within one year.

Senior professors from blood-transfusion medicine or pathology departments will be appointed district blood transfusion officers to strengthen management of blood banks.

Karnataka has a total of 266 blood centres, and 223 of them are private. With 85 centres (72 private and 13 govt), Bengaluru has the highest concentration of blood banks, followed by Belagavi, Bagalkot, Dakshina Kannada and Kalaburagi districts.

"To obtain these accreditations and certifications, blood banks will have to follow international standard protocols that ensure the safety of the blood. The accreditation rule is currently not mandatory under the National Blood Transfusion Bill, 2025, but we proposed to the Centre to include it," said Padma Basavanthappa, project director of AIDS Prevention Society.

The health department, along with officials from the drug control department, conducts surprise inspections of these blood banks once every 3 to 6 months, and this will continue.

With thalassaemia patients requiring frequent blood transfusions, the health department has decided to use Multiplex Nucleic Acid Testing (MNAT), a more sensitive test used to screen blood before transfusion.

For now, ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay), which detects infections by using enzyme-linked antibodies that bind to specific antigens or antibodies in the blood and produce a colour change if the infection marker is present, is the widely used blood testing protocol before transfusion across the state.

"If a donor is infected and we test the blood before transfusing it to a patient, infection might not show up for 3 to 5 days on a regular test. But MNAT test can detect the infection even if it was contracted in the past 24 hours. We are purchasing them for all govt hospitals," said Harsh Gupta, principal secretary, health department. He added that equipment at blood banks is also being upgraded or replaced based on requirement.

Dept issues show-cause notice to teachers over magnet school merger resistance

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The school education department issued a show-cause notice to teachers at schools where children refused to merge with the magnet school as part of the pilot project running in Honganuru, Channapatna.

The magnet school is an ambitious model rolled out by the department to transform primary schooling in rural Karnataka by merging under-enrolled neighbourhood schools into a single, well-equipped institution.

As a pilot, seven schools were identified to merge with the refurbished Karnataka Public School, Honganur. However, only two schools — HPS in Channanke Gowdana Doddi (with two students) and LPS in Mogenahalli Doddi (with five) — agreed for the merger. After a spot visit, **TOI** reported in Dec 2025 about the pushback from locals against the department's plans.

The villagers wanted their schools to be retained as it was a question of identity, access and the very idea of community. Now, the block education office sent a show-cause notice to teachers.

"You failed to convince parents about the facilities provided in KPS and because of this, the project did not materialise. Although a show-cause notice was already issued, you did not take any action and did not reply. You were told to convince parents on or before March 11. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action without further notice," the notice read.

Ajay Kamath of All-India Democratic Students' Organisation said: "While the govt continues to give verbal assurances that 'no one will be forced', it is simultaneously issuing orders to forcibly relocate children against the wishes of their parents. Exerting pressure on parents who are unwilling to send their children to Honganuru KPS is a violation of the constitutional right to education. We vehemently oppose this dictatorial order."

KEA opens PG admissions for 1 more day

Bengaluru: A day after **TOI** reported that 783 PG medical seats are lying vacant, Karnataka Examinations Authority decided to open admissions for one more day.

Islamuddin Gadyal, administrative officer of KEA, said candidates who were not allotted seats in any of the previous rounds can take part. Candidates must visit the KEA office in Malleswaram by Wednesday, 3pm, with a DD or cheque for the full course fee. Those who submit documents will be allowed to enter options Wednesday, 12.30pm to 4pm, and the results will be announced at 7pm. Candidates must report to college by Thursday, 5.30pm. TNN

No HC relief for 3 accused in female foeticide case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The high court has refused to quash criminal proceedings against three accused persons, including a radiologist working at a govt hospital in Ramanagara, in a case related to an alleged sex determination test.

The case was registered after a woman, who already had two daughters, underwent a scan. It is alleged that the pregnancy was terminated after it was revealed that the foetus was female.

RAMANAGARA HOSP

Among the three accused who approached the high court were a couple from Byrapatna. They challenged the proceedings initiated against them under Section 4 of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act-1971 and Sections 3(5) and 91 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita-2023.

The radiologist, who is accused no. 1 in the case and had conducted the scanning procedure, separately challenged the case registered against him for an offence punishable under Section 23 of Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act-1994.

While the couple claimed that they had nothing to do with the case, the radiologist argued that he only conducted the scan and that the same was permissible in law.

Justice M Nagaprasanna observed that the material on record, prima facie, indicated that the couple had deliberately sought to determine the sex of the unborn child. This quest, allegedly rooted in gender prejudice, led to a series of clandestine consultations, covert referrals and illegal medical interventions. Each accused is said to have played a distinct role—some as facilitators, some as intermediaries and others as medical professionals — forming a continuous chain of alleged culpability, the judge added.

The court observed that the couple, accused no. 4 and 5, were not portrayed as passive or peripheral figures. Instead, they were allegedly the conduits through whom patients were procured and channelled for sex determination.

According to the complaint, after the foetus was revealed to be female, monetary negotiations allegedly took place, medication was administered to terminate the pregnancy, and the woman was sent back. She reportedly suffered profuse bleeding the same night, resulting in the death of the foetus.

8 feeder buses for Yellow Line

Bengaluru: BMTC introduced eight dedicated feeder bus services to improve last-mile connectivity for Namma Metro's Yellow Line (RV Road – Bommasandra). These services will primarily cater to Hosa Road, Singasandra and Kudlu Gate Metro stations, connecting them to key residential and commercial hubs.

Buses will run from 6pm to 9.40pm, with 15 to 30-minute frequency during peak hours. TNN

Mullayanagiri ropeway is risky: Green activists

Niranjan.Kaggere@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: The govt's plans to develop ropeway projects to Karnataka's tallest peak, Mullayanagiri, and nearby Seethalayanagiri in Chikkamagaluru, are being criticised by environmentalists and conservation groups, cautioning that they could cause ecological damage to the fragile Chandradrona mountain range nestled in Western Ghats.

Stating that the proposed cable car connecting the two peaks to Kaimara is unscientific, G Veeresh, a conservation activist from Chikkamagaluru, said, "If the govt pursues the project, it will cause irreversible damage to the landscape."

Activists pointed out that Mullayanagiri is home to ecologically sensitive shola forests, grasslands and several endemic species. "Shola forests help in retention of water, which eventually drains into various streams and rivulets and supports several species of unique fauna," said another activist from Chikkamagaluru.

Conservationists recalled the previous BJP-led state govt proposed the same projects connecting these peaks, but it was eventually dropped following widespread protests in the region.

Referring to the govt's justification that the project would promote tourism and generate revenue for local communities, critics argued that such claims shouldn't overshadow ecological risks.

HC halts Sharavati project activities

The high court Tuesday passed an interim order on the proposed Sharavati pumped storage project.

"We direct that no steps or activities in furtherance of the project shall be carried out on the ground, that is within the boundaries of Sharavati Lion Tailed Macaque (LTM) Sanctuary and eco-sensitive zone in the forest, without orders from this court," a division bench of Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha observed, while posting the PIL against the project to June 10 for further consideration.

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
IN MEMORIAM

Col Sreekumar P (Retd)
(03 Jul 1961 - 06 Mar 2026)
The Officer was commissioned in 501 AD Gp (SP) in Dec 1988 and served in 105 AD Regt, AAD College, DAAG of 57 Mtn Div, CO of 2 Kerala Girls NCC Bn Trivandrum/NCC Gp HQ Belgaum & Kakinada. He also served in 31 Inf Bde Jamnagar before superannuating in 2019.
Senior Colonel Commandant & Army Air Defence Fraternity
NOK:
Mrs Renuka Nair (Wife)
(8530009879)

DEATH ANNIVERSARY
20TH YEAR REMEMBRANCE

B. JAYARAM
Ex-Counsellor, Malleshwaram
DOD: 11.03.2006
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From: Family Members
Phone: 9845344442, 9845091138, 23443118

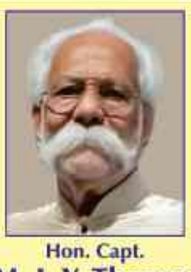
BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES
Birthday Rememberance

Prof. C.E.G. JUSTO
Former Professor & Principal UVCE, Bangalore university
(11.03.1935 - 22.06.2019)
"An Inspiring Teacher and Legendary Mentor with Loving Personality cherished by all his Students & Well Wishers for instilling confidence to Excel in their Daily Lives."
Years have Passed, But Sweet Memories of You are still fresh in our Hearts.
Fondly Remembered by:
Highway Family
Published by:
Rathnakara Reddy K B
Secretary,
Association of Bangalore University Highway Engineers Alumni

SAD DEMISE
SHRADDHANJALI
SHRI NARENDRA DESIRAZU

With profound grief, we deeply mourn the tragic and sudden demise of Shri Narendra Desirazu, husband of Smt. Swati Chanda, on 7th March 2026.
May his soul rest in eternal peace and pray that his family and loved ones gain the strength to bear this irreplaceable loss.
OM SHANTI
With Our Thoughts And Prayers
Members, Patrons and Well Wishers of Alumni Association of Jadavpur University, Bangalore and Jadavpur University Alumni Foundation, Bangalore

SAD DEMISE



Hon. Capt.
M. I. Y. Thomas
(Retd) 88 years.
Mangattumalayil, Ranny, passed away in Bangalore on 08 March 2026.
Funeral service will be held on Thursday, 12th March 2026, 7am onwards at residence and 10am at Jerusalem Mar Thoma Church, Hebbal, Bangalore and thereafter interment at Hosur Road Cemetery (Gate 2).
Deeply mourned by
Mrs. Kunjamma Thomas,
Jose & Serita,
Anitha (Jolly) & Isaac Zachariah, Hannah & Rebekah

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REMEMBRANCES

Dearest KALPANA
14 years to this day; Your love and care for your loved ones is stretched so fine and strong; that you still live in our hearts glowing warm and holding fast, long and forever strong
Missing You!
MASURS, KIRLOSKARS & KHERS

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REMEMBRANCES
REMEMBRANCE

N. RAJAGOPALAN
It has been EIGHT years since you left us, Though you are no longer with us, Your love, values, sacrifices and blessings continue to guide us everyday. Your memories remain deeply etched in our hearts and presence is felt in everything we do.
R. Saraswathi-Wife
Prema-Sister
Kasi, Guru & Kitcha - Brothers
Jagan & Sriram-Sons

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SHARING MEMORIES

34th Death Anniversary
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Gone in 69 days: Scholar, 94, loses ₹5 crore to cyberfraud

Crooks Sent Fake FIR, Told Matter In SC

Chaithanya.Swamy
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: A 94-year-old research scholar lost nearly Rs 5 crore — in six bank-to-bank electronic transfers over 69 days — in a digital arrest fraud from Dec to Feb this year. The victim learnt he had been defrauded only when he approached a friend to borrow money after exhausting all his savings.

Visakan (name changed), from Victoria Layout in Richmond Town, filed a complaint with East Cyber Crime police station on March 8, stating the fraud began on Dec 2.

Visakan's wife, a scientist, was hospitalised due to health issues when he fell prey to the fraud.

Efforts are on to freeze the money from multiple bank accounts of fraudsters, a police officer added.

The retired scholar received a call from an unknown number in which the caller introduced himself as an officer from Telecom Regulatory Authority of India and accused Visakan of being involved in a human-trafficking case registered in Ballari. He disconnected the call after informing him that a police inspector would contact him, leaving the victim shocked and confused.

Soon, another fraudster, Sandeep Rao from CBI, informed Visakan the case had been transferred to the central probe agency. The fraudster made WhatsApp video calls to Visakan and asked him to send a copy of his Aadhaar card. They sent him a fake FIR copy to make the accusation appear genuine.

The scammers then placed the victim under digital arrest, warning him not to disclose the calls to anyone. They made video calls from multiple mobile numbers. During calls, Visakan saw fraudsters wearing police uniforms in a room designed like a CBI office.

As Visakan kept explaining to the fraudsters that he was innocent and not involved in any trafficking, the fraudsters pretended to help him. To step up pressure, fraudsters allegedly told the victim the case was "very serious" and pending before Supreme Court. The matter could be "settled" if he cooperated with their instructions. The fraudsters made him reveal his bank details and instructed him to transfer money to the accounts they provided.

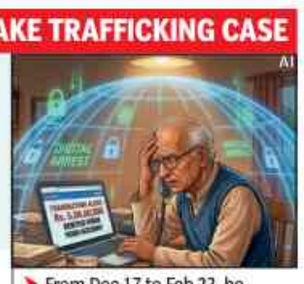
From Dec 17 to Feb 23, they made him transfer over Rs 4.9 crore: Rs 92 lakh from a joint account held with his wife; Rs 76 lakh, over Rs 1 crore, Rs 57 lakh, Rs 23 lakh and Rs 1.3 crore. All transactions were made through RTGS.

When fraudsters continued demanding more money, Visakan, out of funds, approached a friend.

After the friend asked him why he needed such a huge amount, the victim explained his ordeal. That was when the friend informed him it was a fraud.

MAN PANICS OVER FAKE TRAFFICKING CASE

- On Dec 2, Visakan (name changed), a research scholar, receives a call. The caller introduces himself as a TRAI officer and accuses him of involvement in a human-trafficking case registered in Ballari
- A fake police officer contacts him. Later, he gets a call from another crook, who claims to be CBI officer
- Fraudsters make multiple WhatsApp video calls to him and send him a fake FIR copy
- Scammers place victim under digital arrest
- They told him the matter is pending before the Supreme Court and it can be settled if he 'cooperates' with them



- From Dec 17 to Feb 23, he transfers over Rs 4.9 crore
- Fraudsters continue demanding more money
- Visakan, out of funds, approaches a friend and realises it was a fraud

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GBA collects ₹7.5L fine for 1.6k tobacco violations

Bengaluru: GBA authorities collected fines of nearly Rs 7.5 lakh after registering 1,609 violations during a special tobacco enforcement drive carried out across the city recently.

Chief commissioner Maheshwar Rao said 2,027 enforcement operations were conducted across all 27 assembly constituencies to ensure strict implementation of Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003. Bengaluru South city corporation recorded the highest number of violations (409 cases and fines worth Rs 2.1 lakh). Bommanahalli constituency reported 103. TNN

Bill notes amendments to ensure secrecy of ballot

▶ Continued from page 1

The bill, though, is likely to trigger a heated debate in the legislature, wit BJP calling it regressive. Opposition leaders have questioned how Congress could secure such a decisive victory in the 2023 Karnataka assembly elections if EVMs were indeed unreliable?

EVMs were first introduced in Karnataka panchayat elections in 2015. Rural development and panchayati raj minister Priyank Kharge said the amendments are intended to strengthen the integrity of the electoral process. The bill states that the changes are meant to reflect the democratic will of the people under Article 326 of the Constitution. It also notes that the amendments will ensure secrecy of ballot, and protect voters from coercion and undue influence.

K'taka cuts I PU pass marks from 35 to 33

SruthySusan.Ullas@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: After SSLC and II PU, now I PU students will have 33 as passing marks from this year.

The department of school education and literacy, in an order issued Saturday, cut the pass mark from 35, benefiting about 6 lakh students who appear for exams every year. Unlike SSLC and II PU which have public exams with centralised valuation, answer scripts of I PU exams are evaluated at school or college level.

In July 2025, the govt scaled down pass mark to 33 for SSLC (class X, state board) and II PU effective from March 2026 exams to align with other boards such as Central Board of Secondary Education.

To "maintain uniformity in the evaluation method and enhance the academic quality among the students", it was decided to extend the minimum pass percentage to I PU as well, the order said.

Now, Karnataka Pre-University Examination (Method of Evaluation) Rules, 2025, will be changed to reflect the change in passing marks.

I PU exams are expected to be completed and results declared by March 31. "Since II PU pass percentage is fixed at 33, the same is being adopted for I PU too," said Bharat S, director, department of PU education.

"This move will provide a level playing field for students across boards," said Ningegowda AH, president, Karnataka State Pre-University College Lecturers' Association, welcoming the decision.

Lecturers oppose power transfer to ZPs

Karnataka State Pre-University College Lecturers' Association has threatened to boycott valuation of papers if their demands are not met. A key demand is: Repeal proposal to transfer certain administrative, disciplinary, financial, and co-ordination powers from deputy directors of PU to zilla panchayat CEOs.

The association alleged the department's autonomy would be affected. The department of school education and literacy recently submitted a proposal to the finance department to bring transparency and efficiency.

HC: Restrain senate members from holding inspection

Bengaluru: The high court passed an interim order recently, directing Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) to restrain its senate members — until the next date of hearing — from conducting their proposed inspection of the university for continuation of affiliation.

RGUHS AFFILIATION

Justice ES Indiresh heard a petition by Karnataka State Association of Management of Nursing and Allied Health Institutions, who had urged the court to issue directions to RGUHS to conduct inspection for continuation of affiliation for academic year 2026-27 onwards. TNN

Class 5 girl uncovers centuries-old hero stone off B'gavi village temple

Ravindra.Uppar
@timesofindia.com

Belagavi: A 11-year-old schoolgirl from Mallammana Belawadi village in Bailhongal taluk unearthed a centuries-old hero stone that villagers long worshipped as a local deity.

The stone, found near the Hanuman temple in the village, was for decades worshipped as an idol of Shani. However, Lakshmi Prakash Humbi, a class 5 student, noticed unusual carvings on the stone and pointed them out to elders, leading to the realisation that it was, in fact, a historical hero stone.

TOI

The stone discovered by Lakshmi Prakash Humbi could be from the 12th or 13th century

The hero stone is divided into three panels. The first depicts a warrior fighting enemies to protect cattle. The second panel shows celestial nymphs escorting the fallen hero to Kailash, symbolising his passage to the divine realm. The third panel portrays the hero reaching heaven, where a Shivalinga and Nandi are depicted, with two celestial beings worshipping the Shivalinga. Lakshmi said, "I often heard stories about Veera Rani Belawadi Mallamma, who fought bravely to rescue cattle allegedly taken away during conflicts involving the forces of Shivaji Maharaj. When I looked closely at the stone near the temple recently, I noticed carvings of a warrior protecting cow," she said.

Researcher Balappa Irappa Chinagudi believes the sculpture may be a 'Turugol Veeragallu' — a hero stone commemorating someone who died protecting cattle.

He suggested stylistically, the stone could date back to 12th or 13th century, indicating that it may predate the era associated with the legend of Belawadi Mallamma.

Electrical contractors on protest today

Bengaluru: Electrical contractors across Karnataka have sought one-time relaxation for buildings that failed to obtain electricity connections following the Supreme Court's directive mandating occupancy certificates (OCs) for approving power supply.

Contractors said the rule has impacted a large number of properties without electricity connections — over 16 lakh buildings across the state and nearly 4.5 lakh in Bengaluru alone. In a ruling in Dec 2024, SC made it mandatory for buildings to obtain OC before being granted basic services such as water supply, electricity and sewerage connections.

Karnataka State Licensed Electrical Contractors' Association members are expected to assemble at Freedom Park Wednesday to stage a protest. They are demanding clarity on guidelines governing electricity connections to under-construction buildings. TNN

SC: One day, we may put questions to PeTA

▶ Continued from page 1

The counsel further submitted that the state govt had previously filed an affidavit stating that the sport was a traditional practice held in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi. However, organisers were now planning to hold the event in Bengaluru. The counsel argued that the event could be cruel to animals but had been allowed due to safeguards under the law. While dismissing the plea, the court added, "One of these days, we may put some questions to PeTA also."

PeTA's petition argued that the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, as amended by Karnataka, provided only a limited and conditional exemption for kambala and bull or bullock-cart races when they are "normally held as a part of tradition and culture".

File photo

According to the plea, the exemption historically applied only to select coastal districts and races held in cities such as Bengaluru or Shivamogga would therefore violate the law and earlier Supreme Court rulings in AWBI vs Union of India (2023) and A Nagaraja (2014).

In May 2023, a five-judge constitution bench of the apex court upheld the validity of amendment acts of Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Karnataka which allowed bull-taming sport 'jallikattu', bullock-cart races and buffalo-racing sport Kambala, saying they were "valid legislations".

Health officers call off strike

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Karnataka Govt Medical Officers' Association and Karnataka State Health and Medical Education Department Employees' Central Association Tuesday called off their strike following a meeting with health minister Dinesh Gundu Rao and social welfare minister HC Mahadevappa.

Govt agrees to 13 demands

The govt agreed to 13 of the demands, excluding restrictions around private practice.

The minister promised to review it and get back to the associations.

Some of the demands were ensuring regular supply of medicines to govt hospitals, amendment of cadre and recruitment rules, publishing updated seniority lists and granting pending promotions.

भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान सम्बलपुर
Indian Institute of Management Sambalpur
नवसर्जनम्-शुचिता-समावेशत्वम्
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Campus Highlights :
- First IIM to launch B.S. programmes in DSAI and MPP.
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DURATION: Full-time residential, 4 years (8 semesters) with flexible entry exit options.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:
(a) Must have either passed their Standard XII/HSC or equivalent examination or be currently appearing for Standard XII/HSC or equivalent examination, with results expected by June 2026.
(b) Min. 60% aggregate in all subjects in Standard X/SSC and Standard XII/HSC or equivalent examinations (General Category);
(c) Must have passed English language & Mathematics examination in Standard X/SSC and Standard XII/HSC or equivalent examinations.
(d) Must have a valid JEE (Main) 2026 score.

MERIT LIST PREPARATION: The final merit list will be prepared based on the JEE (Main) 2026 score & performance in personal interview.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:
1. Curriculum aligned with the latest industry trends and academic research frontiers.
2. Case study-based teaching that bridges theory and practice through real-world industry problems and applied learning.
3. Real-world exposure through live projects, internships, and industry collaborations.
4. Final year dissertation focused on solving real-world problems using AI and data-driven approaches.
5. Industry-focused modules co-designed with leading tech firms and AI practitioners.
6. Multiple exit options in line with NEP: Certificate (1st Year), Diploma (2nd Year), Degree (3rd Year), Honours (4th Year) as per the NEP 2020.

For more details and application timeline, please visit www.iimsambalpur.ac.in or scan the above QR code.

DURATION: Full-time residential, 4 years (8 semesters) with flexible entry exit options.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:
(a) Must have either passed their Standard XII / HSC or equivalent examination or be currently appearing for Standard XII/HSC or equivalent examination, with results expected by June 2026.
(b) Min. 60% aggregate in Standard X/SSC and Standard XII / HSC or equivalent examinations (General Category);
(c) Must have passed English language examination in Standard X/SSC and Standard XII / HSC or equivalent examinations.
(d) Must have a valid score of Integrated Program in Management Aptitude Test (IPMAT) examination 2026 conducted by IIM Indore.

MERIT LIST PREPARATION: The final merit list will be prepared based on the IPMAT 2026 score & performance in personal interview.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:
1. Courses span marketing, economics, finance, operations and analytics with strong foundation in sustainability and policy
2. 170 - credit curriculum with Capstone Project and research upskilling in the final year with dissertation.
3. Personalized skill development through workshops on critical thinking, design, simulations, and personal branding.
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5. Multiple exit options in line with NEP: Certificate (1st Year), Diploma (2nd Year), Degree (3rd Year), Honours (4th Year) as per the NEP 2020.

For more details and application timeline, please visit www.iimsambalpur.ac.in or scan the above QR code.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
Age Limit: The maximum age for admission is 20 years as on July 31, 2026
Note: Relaxation of marks, age and reservation of seats to reserved category will be as per the norms of the Government of India.

Indian Institute of Management Sambalpur, Basanti Nagar, Sambalpur (Odisha)
Contact No.: 9078546024 / 7327014789, Email id: bs.admission@iimsambalpur.ac.in

SHORT TAKES

Allow guns for Malnad residents: Ex-HM Araga

Former home minister Araga Jnanendra urged the state govt to grant gun licences to residents of the Malnad region, citing a rise in thefts in isolated rural areas. Raising the issue in the assembly, he said many people live in independent houses in farms and plantations, making them vulnerable to crime. "The spate of thefts is a concern. Women are living in panic," he said. Jnanendra said farmers earlier possessed guns for self-protection but licences were now being denied. However, home minister G Parameshwara said licences are issued through a prescribed process and police would not object unless applicants have criminal cases.

BJP names candidates for legislative council polls

Although the EC is yet to announce the poll schedule, BJP announced three candidates for biennial elections to the legislative council. The party's central election committee in Delhi cleared the names of Shashil G Namoshi for Northeast Teachers' constituency, SV Sankanura for West Graduates' constituency and KM Suresh for Southeast Graduates' constituency. Congress had announced its candidates for four seats in Dec last year.

Summer woes: 183 villages report water shortage

The govt has launched measures to prevent drinking water shortages in rural areas ahead of summer, rural development and panchayat raj minister Priyank Kharge said. Data shows 183 villages across 144 taluks in 21 districts are already facing shortages. "Of these, 31 villages are being supplied water through 96 tankers, while 152 villages are receiving water through 154 rented private borewells," Priyank said. District administrations have been asked to hire private borewells and deploy tankers where required.

Working to create jobs in North Karnataka: MB Patil

Industries minister MB Patil said the govt is in talks with several companies to set up industrial projects in Vijayapura and Bagalkot districts to boost jobs in north Karnataka. Replying to BJP's Prahlad Pujar in the council, Patil said the 2025-30 industrial policy continues the "Beyond Bengaluru" push by offering higher incentives in backward regions. Patil said some "nine or 10" projects are being pursued. A Reliance Industries facility at Kembhavi is expected to create 1,600 jobs, while Suzlon Energy is also planning a unit.

Congress party office sites trigger storm in council

The govt's decision to allot sites in several districts for Congress party offices triggered a heated debate in the legislative council. Raising the issue, BJP's DS Arun questioned the move, while urban development minister BS Suresh defended it, saying allotments were made as per a cabinet decision. BJP members alleged the sites were given at just 5% of guidance value and civic amenity sites were being used in violation of rules. Suresh rejected the charge, saying allotment of CA sites to organisations was not new, while pointing out the previous BJP govt had given land to Chanakya University.

Show of unity as CM, aides attend DKS's dinner meet

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: In a show of unity, chief minister Siddaramaiah and almost all Congress ministers and legislators attended a lavish dinner hosted by deputy CM DK Shivakumar Tuesday, to mark completion of six years as president of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC).

The meeting was significant since reports had suggested that it would be cancelled as some legislators from Siddaramaiah's camp were planning to skip the event. Sources say Congress' high command had intervened and had asked legislators to present a united face.

Intriguingly, Siddaramaiah earlier in the day congratulated Shivakumar on his milestone and praised his abilities. He said Shivakumar's "organisational skills, ideological commitment, and hard work is a model" that youngsters in the party should emulate.

Siddaramaiah said despite several challenges, including what he described as "false cases filed by opposition BJP and various forms of harassment", Shivakumar was steadfast to Congress. "This reflects his uncompromising commitment. His conduct is inspiring for lakhs of Congress workers," Siddaramaiah said.

He said Shivakumar had worked tirelessly alongside functionaries and workers to defeat "communal forces" and bring Congress to the helm in 2023. He also revealed Shivakumar had stood "shoulder to shoulder" with him in efforts to "rebuild Karnataka as a state of peace and harmony for people of all communities".

Siddaramaiah said Shivakumar, who is significantly younger than him, has a "bright political future" and was hopeful Congress would return to govern in 2028. "I will also take up party work and will struggle to achieve that goal," he said.

Earlier, the camaraderie between the two was visible in the assembly during the discussion on the budget. Shivakumar had risen to defend Siddaramaiah after opposition leader R Ashoka attacked the govt.

Criticising BJP for staging a protest with empty vessels on the day the budget was presented, Shivakumar said, "You brought empty vessels to Vidhana Soudha to protest even before the budget was presented. This shows your mindset. We call Nirmala Sitharaman's (national) budget an empty vessel."

Deputy leader of the opposition Arvind Bellad of BJP, in a swipe, said, if Shivakumar was supporting the CM, it appeared "good news" was coming. Shivakumar replied, "You don't have to worry about that."

BJP state general secretary V Sunil Kumar had also ridiculed Shivakumar, saying he had not attended any of the preliminary budget meetings and that he had not commented on the budget. Joining the exchange, Ashoka had said, "Whatever Shivakumar had to convey, he has already conveyed it in New Delhi (to the party high command)."

TOI

CAMARADERIE: DK Shivakumar welcomes CM Siddaramaiah to the dinner at a five-star hotel in Bengaluru on Tuesday

Finance panel: B'luru devpt needs ward-level funding

PROPOSED ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

Corporation	Wards	Population	Area*	SC/STs	Slum popn	Allocation#
West	112	45,99,140	163.3	4,44,538	2,87,853	27,78,315
North	72	30,88,808	159.5	4,46,944	2,16,873	21,96,266
Central	63	25,10,406	77.8	4,80,596	1,92,972	16,88,345
East	50	14,73,761	163.3	2,37,202	1,17,710	14,67,335
South	72	28,04,379	152	3,05,511	1,61,976	18,69,739
Total	369	1,44,76,494	716	19,14,971	9,77,384	1,00,00,000

*In sqkm | # out of ₹1cr | Population and other projections based on 2025 numbers
Source: State Finance Commission

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The 5th State Finance Commission (SFC) has recommended devolution of funds directly to city corporation wards — a new tier in the devolution framework — to strengthen decentralised governance in city corporations.

In its report tabled in the assembly Tuesday, the commission recommended that at least 30% of funds allocated to a city corporation should be earmarked for ward-level work. The ward-wise allocation formula suggested by the commission is based on multiple indicators: Population (40%), geographical area (30%), SC/ST population (10%), slum population (10%) and tax collection efforts (10%).

To encourage local bodies to improve revenue collection, the commission has identified tax efforts as an important criterion. "This will incentivise better performing wards and reduce dependency tendencies by generating competitive decentralisation," it said.

Based on projections for 2026-27, the commission said Begur ward in Bengaluru South is expected to receive the highest allocation due to its large slum population. Srinagar ward in Bengaluru West corporation is likely to receive the lowest.

At a broader level, the commission has asked the govt to increase the share of untied grants to city corporations. It also recommended that at least 40% of funds devolved to corporations should be untied grants. Currently, most SFC grants are tied to specific heads such as salaries, electricity and capital assets, leaving little flexibility to address local priorities. "Untied grants of 40% can be used for any work except paying salaries," the report said.

The commission has also proposed fund allocations for all five Greater Bengaluru Area corporations. The largest share will go to the Bengaluru West, followed by Bengaluru North, South and Central, while Bengaluru East corporation will receive the least.

However, the report notes that Bengaluru East is expected to generate the highest revenue among the five corporations despite having the lowest population, as it largely covers the city's IT and technology corridor.

If drone data disputed, will do physical survey: DKS

Bengaluru: DK Shivakumar, who is minister in charge of Bengaluru, Tuesday said the govt is open to conducting a physical verification of properties if owners dispute findings of ongoing drone-based survey.

Responding to a question from KC Ramamurthy in the assembly, Shivakumar said owners of 24,874 properties in Bengaluru were issued show-cause notices for allegedly providing incorrect details under self-assessment scheme (SAS), resulting in undervaluation of property tax.

But Ramamurthy disputed the figure saying more than 46,000 property owners had received such notices. "In some cases, parapet walls, water tanks and stairs were considered additional areas," he said. But Shivakumar rejected the allegations, saying: "If there is a dispute, GBA and the govt are ready to conduct a physical survey."

In a separate reply, Shivakumar said some 10 lakh e-khatas have been issued in Bengaluru. The govt has issued about 1.1 crore e-khatas across the state, he said. TNN

ACID ATTACKS: GOVT TO FAST-TRACK CASES

To support 169 acid attack victims, home minister G Parameshwara said he would reach out to women and child development minister Laxmi Hebbalkar and urge CM Siddaramaiah to increase pension from Rs 10,000 to Rs 50,000. He said measures would be taken to nip the problem by cracking down on unregulated sale of acid. The issue was raised by MLC Shivakumar, who questioned why only a handful of women received Rs 10,000 relief even though a Supreme Court order speaks of Rs 10 lakh compensation. Shivakumar said police stations say they burn records after 10 years and many women are unable to claim compensation. The minister said rules would be simplified. DCM DK Shivakumar said cases would be fast-tracked to ensure justice to victims.

Govt in debt to even beggars, says Ashoka

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Opposition leader **R Ashoka** Tuesday attacked Karnataka' budget for 2026–27, alleging financial mismanagement by the govt and claiming it was "in debt even to beggars."

Ashoka claimed the govt collects 3% cess meant to be transferred to the Central Relief Committee (CRC) for welfare of beggars but the govt had allegedly failed to hand over Rs 23.4 crore to CRC. "In that sense, the govt is in debt to beggars' colony," he said.

He alleged the govt had stopped paying monthly pensions of Rs 4,000 a month to orphaned children. He said more than 26,000 children lost their parents to Covid-19, accidents, murders and for other reasons, but monthly payments were halted seven months ago.

"There is over Rs 73 crore dues to orphans. What is the use of giving Rs 2,000 to women by stopping payments to orphaned children?" he asked.

He also alleged several projects announced in last year's budget had not been implemented. He accused the govt of diverting funds meant for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) to finance its guarantee schemes.

He said big portions of funds earmarked for Dalit welfare was diverted to other schemes. He said Rs 14,198 crore was diverted this financial year alone from SCSP and TSP allocations. "If money meant for Dalits is looted, can that be called social justice?" he asked.

CM CREDITS GOWDA FOR BUDGET RECORD

CM Siddaramaiah credited former PM HD Deve Gowda for his record of presenting 17 state budgets, saying he became finance minister in 1994 at Gowda's insistence. Responding to opposition leader R Ashoka's jibe, Siddaramaiah said he had sought the revenue portfolio, but it went to RL Jalappa. Gowda then asked him to take the finance portfolio despite his reluctance. Ashoka had recalled criticism of Siddaramaiah at the time, saying some had questioned how a "shepherd who could not count sheep" would present a budget.

Upa Lokayukta: Penalise those who don't vote

Bengaluru: Upa Lokayukta Justice B Veerappa, a former Karnataka high court judge, urged the Karnataka State Election Commission (SEC) to consider making voting compulsory and deny certain public facilities to those who abstain, a demand to tackle low voter turnout in recent elections.

At an event to launch a new SEC logo, Justice Veerappa said stronger measures were needed to ensure citizens participate in the democratic process.

"Real change will occur only when citizens step up and do their duty of voting, instead of packing up and leaving for vacations during elections," he said. He suggested the SEC cut electricity and water supply and withhold ration cards for those who fail to vote.

Justice Veerappa also called for greater accountability among candidates stating contestants should declare that they would not buy votes

State election commissioner GS Sangreshi also expressed concern over low participation, especially Bengaluru. He said the city records only 40–50% voter turnout despite having a large number of educated voters, while panchayats and districts see 80–90% participation. SEC social media handles were also launched at the event. TNN

Udan setback: 1 airport for 3 districts

Niranjan.Kaggere
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: The state govt is exploring the possibility of setting up a single airport to serve Ballari, Vijayanagara and Koppal districts, citing mixed results of the Centre's Udan scheme.

Infrastructure development minister MB Patil told the legislative council Tuesday that the govt is assessing a viable model after some regional airports struggled once the initial support under Udan ended.

Responding to a question from BJP's YM Satish, Patil said passenger demand has been low in some places. "Airports in Kalaburagi and Bidar struggled after the initial 3-year support under Udan," he said. "While Bidar has now resumed operations, we do not want the proposed Ballari airport to become a white elephant."

He said the govt is examining the feasibility of establishing an airport at a location that can cater to all three districts in Kalyana Karnataka. The proposal to build an airport in Ballari dates to 2010, when 900 acres was acquired and handed over to Chennai-based MARG Srikrishnadevaraya Airport Private Ltd. However, the agreement was later cancelled after the company failed to begin work within the stipulated two year.

TOI

GROUND REALITIES: Industries minister MB Patil in the assembly on Tuesday

In Oct 2025, the govt invited tenders to appoint consultants to prepare a detailed project report. However, residents of Vijayanagara and Koppal have been demanding separate airport facilities.

"Building separate airports for each district may not be feasible," Patil said, while clarifying that the land acquired for the Ballari airport will not be returned. He said he has requested the Centre to extend the support period under the Udan scheme from three years to five to improve long-term viability of regional airports.

TENDER NOTICE

Directorate of Museums,
Government of Gujarat, Abhilekhagaar Bhavan,
Sector-17, Gandhinagar

Directorate of Museums, Government of Gujarat invites interested Bidders to participate in the bidding process for the following works:

1. Empanelment of Design and Technical Agency for Restoration and Upgradation of Various Museums at Directorate of Museums, Government of Gujarat.

Please note that the Bid Documents can be downloaded from the website **https://tender.nprocure.com**. from **11th March 2026**. Further the last date of submission of the Online Bid is **2nd April 2026 by 18:00 hrs.** The last date for submission of hard copies of the documents is **4th April 2026** by **18:00 hrs.** Evaluation of Preliminary Qualification criteria will be announced later. For further detail please contact 079-23256740/41.

Director,
Directorate of Museums

INF/2778/2025-26

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF GEOLOGY & MINING INDUSTRIES & MINES DEPARTMENT

GUJARAT STATE
Block 15, Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhavan,
Sector-10 B, Gandhinagar- 382010, Gujarat.
www.cgm.gujarat.gov.in

EOI No. CGM-GMET/Empanelment Exploration Agency/01/25-26 Date: 11.03.2026

Expression of Interest are invited from eligible bidders for below mentioned details:

Sr. No.	Description
1	Empanelment of exploration agencies for Geological Exploration and its associated work

Details are available in the EOI document which can be downloaded from CGM website **https://cgm.gujarat.gov.in/**
E-mail: **ad-tech-cgm@gujarat.gov.in**

Sd/-
Commissioner of Geology and Mining,
Gujarat State, Gandhinagar

INF/2775/25-26

BIHAR STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
Govt. of Bihar
NIT No- 1235/AA

Software Solution for Creation and Integration of Recruitment Website for Bihar Staff Selection Commission (BSSC)

Important Information: -
DATE OF ISSUE of NIT: -10.03.2026
CONTRACT PERIOD: - Three Years (36 Months)
EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT: - ₹ 5,00,000/- (Rupees Five Lacs) Payable through e-challan along with the bid.
DOCUMENT FEE: - ₹ 10,000/- (Ten Thousand) (Non-Refundable) Payable through e-challan along with the bid.
BID SUBMISSION START DATE:-10.03.2026from 03:00PM
PRE-BID MEETING: - 16.03.2026at 11:00AM (Conference Hall BSSC)
LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF BID:-24.03.2026 till 05:00 PM
TECHNICAL BID OPENING:-25.03.2026at 12:00 Noon
OPENING OF FINANCIAL BIDS OF TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED BIDDERS: To be Informed
The interested bidder shall have to download the bid document from the website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in.
Secretary,
Bihar Staff Selection Commission,
Veterinary College Campus,
P.O. B.V. College, Patna, BIHAR- 800014
Phone: (0612)-2220359, 2227727,
Website: https://bssc.bihar.gov.in/
E-mail: secybssc@gmail.com
Any change in information given in this Request for Proposal document will be displayed on our website "https://bssc.bihar.gov.in" wherever feasible

NOTE:- Due to Technical Reason, published NIT No-471/AA, Dated-29.01.2026 has been Cancelled.

सचिव
बिहार कर्मचारी चयन आयोग, पटना

PR- 026028 (GAD) 2025-26
For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar

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30001/34/2526

ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED
OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha
CIN: U13100OR1956SGC000313, www.omcltd.in
ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LTD. Mining Happiness

E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Sl. No.	NIT No.	Job Description	Availability of Tender Documents in e-Procurement Portal	Bid Due Date
1.	OMC/E-PROC/ C&P/042 /2025-26, Dtd. 10.03.2026	Preparation, approval and obtaining certificate of Final Mine Closure Plan (FMCP) for various mines of OMC	11.03.2026	06.04.2026

All other details can be seen from the Tender Document available on the e-procurement portal of the Government of Odisha **(www.tendersodisha.gov.in)** and on the website of OMC **(www.omcltd.in)**. OMC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Head C&P)
Odisha Mining Corporation Limited
0674-2377475/2377524

OIPR - 30001/30005/1/25-26/0017

1001/55/2526

ODISHA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY
BHUBANESWAR-751 003

No. COE-1/25-26 3341/UAT, Dt. 9th March, 2026

NOTICE

INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) / TENDER FOR CONDUCTING COMMON ENTRANCE EXAMINATION (COMPUTER-BASED-TEST) FOR U.G. AND P.G. PROGRAMMES-2026

Tenders are invited from eligible, reputed and qualified IT Firms with sound technical and financial capabilities for conduct of computer based entrance examination. The bidders must apply in the prescribed tender documents available on the website of OUAT i.e. **www.ouat.ac.in** from **10.03.2026**. The last date of submission of the bid is **25.03.2026** by **5.00 P.M.** either by **Speed Post** or **Courier**.

Those who have already submitted bid proposal in response to last notification (No. 1552/UAT, dated 02.02.2026) need not apply again.

OUAT, Bhubaneswar reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
REGISTRAR
OIPR-1001/1036/1/25-26/0013

32001/188/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
O/o THE CHIEF ENGINEER AND BASIN MANAGER,
MAHANADI BASIN, AT-BURLA, DISTRICT-SAMBALPUR, PIN-768017
E-mail Id - cebmumbburla@gmail.com
'e' Procurement Notice No-CE & BM-MB-46/2025-2026 (Online)
BID IDENTIFICATION NO-CE & BM-MB-46/2025-2026 (Online)

1	Name of the work	:	Renovation of Canal System of Hirakud Dam Project (Sason Canal Section, Sambalpur Irrigation Division, Sambalpur)
2	No of works	:	One (01) number
3	Class of contractor	:	"Special Class" and "Super Class"
4	Bid identification No	:	CE&BM-MB-46/2025-2026 (Online)
5	Estimated cost	:	Rs.23.87 Crores
6	Period of completion	:	24 (Twenty-Four) Calendar Months
7	Date and time of availability of Bid Documents in the portal	:	Dated-16.03.2026 at 11.30 AM to Dated-06.04.2026 up to 5.00 PM.
8	Last date/time for receipt of Bids in the portal	:	Dated-06.04.2026 up to 5.00 PM.
9	Date of opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I)	:	Dated-07.04.2026 at 11.30 AM, O/o Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Mahanadi Basin, Burla
10	Name and Address of the Officer inviting Bid	:	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Mahanadi Basin, Burla, Dist-Sambalpur, Odisha,768017, Email Id: **cebmumbburla@gmail.com**

1. Any addendum/corrigendum/ cancellation/ erratum of tender can also be seen in the said Website.
2. Further details can be seen from Government Website **http://tendersodisha.gov.in**.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager,
Mahanadi Basin, Burla
OIPR-32001/32508/1/25-26/0018

32001/183/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER
MAHANADI, BRAHMANI & BAITARANI SYSTEM, CHANDIKHOLE
E-mail ID: cembbschandikhole@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-Procurement Notice No: CE & BM, MBBS 04 OF 2025-26
Bid Identification No: CE & BM, MBBS AUL 03 OF 2025-26

The Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Mahanadi, Brahmani & Baitarani System, Chandikhole on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on-line **percentage rate tender** through e-procurement in **double cover system.**

Table - 1: Details of Critical Dates, details of work, Bid Security

Pkg. No.	Name of work	Approx. Tender Cost	Class of Contractor	Bid Security/ EMD- (online)- (in INR)	Cost of tender document- (online)- (in INR)	Period of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	RAISING & STRENGTHENING OF NALITAPATIA TALCHUA SALINE EMBANKMENT FROM RD.50 KM TO 12.50 KM WITH CONSTRUCTION OF 8 NOS OF DRAINAGE SLUICES AND RENOVATION OF 2 NOS OF DRAINAGE SLUICES	Rs. 4575.37 Lakh (Excluding G.S.T)	Special & Super Class	Rs. 45,75,400/-	Rs. 10,000/-	24 (Twenty-Four) Calendar Months

Table-2: e-Procurement Details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Date of Seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender		Place of opening
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Mahanadi, Brahmani & Baitarani System, Chandikhole	**CE & BM, MBBS AUL 03 OF 2025-26**	Dt 17.03.2026 at 10.00 hours	Dt 07.04.2026 up to 17.00 hours	Dt 17.03.2026 to 04.04.2026 at Office during office hours.	Dt 08.04.2026 at 11.00 Hours	To be intimated after evaluation of Technical Bid.	Office of Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Mahanadi, Brahmani & Baitarani System, Chandikhole

Further details can be seen from the Govt. Website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
*Other Terms & conditions can be seen from the Government website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
*The Corrigendum/cancellation of Tender, if any, will be uploaded and can be seen from the above website only.

Sd/- **Chief Engineer & Basin Manager**
MBBS, Chandikhole
OIPR-32001/32415/1/25-26/0001

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Australia Africa Far East Asia

Tour Name	Ex-Mumbai	J&L
Australia (7D/9D/15D)	225K-515K	150K-440K
New Zealand (10D/15D)	375K-495K	285K-405K
Australia New Zealand (11D/17D)	385K-575K	270K-495K
South Africa Kenya Victoria Falls (15D)	455K-480K	--
South Africa + Kruger National Park (13D)	340K-365K	290K-315K
Kenya (5D/8D/12D)	175K-440K	140K-360K
Best of Mauritius (6D)	125K-135K	85K-95K
Mauritius Seychelles (8D)	250K-275K	216K-240K
Mauritius Madagascar (8D)	279K-295K	--
Uganda Rwanda (8D)	525000	--
Kenya Tanzania Zanzibar (12D)	575000	--
Japan (5D to 17D)	175K-650K	120K-595K
Japan Alpine Route (10D)	400K-425K	390K-415K
Japan Korea (10D)	350K-375K	295K-320K
Japan China (13D)	445K-470K	380K-415K
Japan Taiwan (11D)	380K-405K	325K-350K
China Korea (10D)	300K-325K	245K-270K
Korea Taiwan (8D)	285K-310K	230K-255K
China Korea Taiwan (14D)	380K-390K	320K-345K
Japan China Korea Taiwan (20D)	585K-610K	530K-555K
Best of China (9D)	175K-225K	120K-170K
Best of Taiwan (5D)	150K-170K	95K-115K

South East Asia

Tour Name	Ex-Mumbai	J&L
Singapore Thailand Malaysia Hong Kong (13D)	252K-262K	--
Singapore Thailand Malaysia (10D)	170K-185K	135K-150K
Singapore Malaysia Bali (10D)	197K-207K	--
Singapore Malaysia/Bali (8D)	145K-190K	115K-125K
Singapore Thailand (8D)	147K-157K	--
Hong Kong Macao Singapore (8D)	202K-212K	--
Singapore with Bintan (5D)	135K-145K	109K-119K
Best of Singapore (5D)	127K-137K	104K-114K
Malaysia Penang Langkawi (7D)	139K-149K	--
Best of Bali (7D)	125K-135K	90K-100K
Thailand (4D/6D/8D/15D)	50K-175K	30K-65K
Phuket Krabi (5D)	85K-95K	60K-70K
Bangkok Pattaya Phuket Krabi (8D)	125K-135K	91K-100K
Chiang Mai Chiang Rai Phuket Krabi (9D)	152K-162K	--
Hong Kong Macao (5D)	129K-139K	87K-97K
Hong Kong Macao Shenzhen (7D)	170K-180K	129K-145K
Vietnam (5D/8D/13D)	100K-225K	--
Vietnam Sapa Phu Quoc (7D)	125K-135K	--
Vietnam Cambodia (11D)	195K-205K	--
Vietnam Bali (12D)	200K-210K	--
Philippines Manila Cebu (8D)	197000	--

North America South America

Tour Name	Ex-Mumbai	J&L
USA East & West Coast+Orlando & Bahamas Cruise (19D)	745K-770K	620K-645K
USA+Death Valley & Yosemite (16D/18D)	675K-725K	550K-600K
USA East & West Coast with Chicago & National Park (22D)	800K-825K	675K-700K
USA California Carnival with Death Valley & Yosemite (10D)	425K-450K	300K-325K
USA East Coast/Chicago (7D/9D)	275K-330K	175K-230K
USA East & West Coast with Orlando Disneyland & NASA (15D)	575K-600K	450K-475K
USA East Coast with Chicago (13D)	535K-560K	410K-435K
USA East Coast with Boston & Vermont (Autumn Colors) (11D)	435000	315000
Chicago with National Parks(10D)	--	310K-335K
USA West Coast (7D)	--	225K-250K
Canada Alaska (18D)	855K-880K	655K-680K
Best of Alaska (9D)	--	295K-310K
Best of Canada (11D)	--	425K-450K
Hawaii Mexico (11D)	950000	675000
Antarctica (13D) Nov 28	1335000	1135000
South America (21D) Sept 26	1350000	1075000
Best of Brazil (8D)	--	425000
Brazil Peru (13D)	--	825K-850K

Europe - Western, Eastern, Northern, Mediterranean

Tour Name	Ex-Mumbai	J&L
Multi-Country Europe (6D-15D)	175K-430K	110K-350K
Multi-Country Europe (17D-27D)	465K-695K	385K-615K
Swiss Paris London (11D)	375K-400K	290K-315K
Swiss Paris Amsterdam Brussels (11D)	335K-345K	265K-275K
Swiss Paris/Swiss Austria (8D)	285K-310K	210K-240K
Swiss Austria/Italy (11D)	325K-335K	255K-265K
Switzerland (7D/10D)	275K-360K	205K-290K
England Scotland Ireland Wales (10D/15D)	315K-440K	245K-370K
Scandinavia (7D/10D/15D)	250K-500K	175K-400K
Scandinavia Midnight Sun(16D)	535K-550K	455K-470K
Scandinavia Iceland (15D)	565K-590K	--
Scandinavia Russia (17D)	435K-450K	--
Greenland (9D) Aug 31	675K-690K	585K-600K
Central & Eastern Europe (17D)	400K-425K	325K-350K
Spain Portugal Morocco (16D)	375K-400K	295K-320K
Greece Turkey/Egypt (12D/15D)	350K-450K	270K-295K
Tashkent (5D) Mar 24	81K-85K	61K-66K
Baku (7D) May 9, 23	135K-145K	95K-105K
Uzbekistan Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan (9D)	215K-230K	160K-175K
Baltic Europe Estonia Latvia Lithuania (8D)	250K-275K	180K-205K

India Nepal Bhutan Sri Lanka Dubai

- Sri Lanka (7D to 15D)
- Bhutan (7D to 15D)
- Nepal (5D to 13D)
- Dubai Abu Dhabi (5D - 7D)
- Kashmir (6D)
- Leh Ladakh (7D to 15D)
- Himachal (5D to 13D)
- Sikkim Darjeeling (4D to 9D)
- Rajasthan (5D to 17D)
- Kerala (5/6/8/10/15D)
- Gujarat (5D to 16D)
- Karnataka (5D to 9D)
- Tamil Nadu (6D)
- Nainital Mussoorie Haridwar Corbett Park (6D/9D)
- Assam Meghalaya/ Arunachal (7D/12D)
- Bhubaneswar Puri Konark (6D)
- Varanasi Ayodhya Lucknow (8D)
- Madhya Pradesh (5D/8D/13D)
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Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation And Ground Water Development Division, Ballari

IFT No. EE/MI & GWDD/Bly/AE-1/2025-26/2224
Date :04.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION(KW-4)

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Division Ballari invited the tender for the work of under **Head of Account 4702 Plan** work in Vijayanagar Dist., H.B.Halli Tshk 01 Work and Harapanahalli tshk 02 works in **Two Cover System Minimum Estimated amount put to tender is Rs.119.49 lakhs, Maximum Estimated amount put to tender is Rs.160.07 lakhs** the tenderers should download and submitt the tenders from **date : 04.03.2026 to 20.03.2026 upto 17.30 hours. Date & Time of opening Technical Bid is on 23.03.2026 at 11.00 hours. Opening of Financial Bid is on 25.03.2026 at 11.00 hours.** Any other information should get by login the website "KPPP" website http:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
M.I. & G.W.D. Division, Ballari.
DIPR/Ballari/1109/KSMCA/2025-26

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer (Project)
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G Road, Bangalore - 560 009.

No.: BWSSB/CE(P)/ACE(Cstr-DCW)/2477/2025-26 Date: 09.03.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only through KPP Portal) - 2nd Call

BWSSB invites two stage tender from eligible tenderers for the work of **construction of 4 MLD ISPS at Hemmigepura V-Valley, Bangalore.**

Amount put to tender: **Rs. 398.75 Lakhs**. EMD: **Rs. 5.98 Lakhs.**

Last date and time for reciept of tenders will be on **09.04.2026** upto **16:00 hrs**. The bids will be opened on **10.04.2026** after **17:00 hrs**. The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Project)

DIPR/CP/MIA/6130/2025-26

Government of Rajasthan
National Health Mission, Rajasthan
Department of Medical, Health & Family Welfare, Swasthya Bhawan, Jaipur.
Tel. No. 0141-2225736, E-Mail ID: ce-mh-raj@gov.in

No. : 5673 Date: 09/03/2026

E-NIT No- 02/2025-26 on EPC MODE

Online tenders are invited in prescribed format from experienced contractors registered in Public Works Department/State Government/Authorized organizations of Central Government/ Central Public Works Department/ Department of Posts and Telecommunications/ Railways etc. in appropriate category for Building Construction works on EPC Mode in Medical and Health Department, Rajasthan, who are equivalent to the contractors of appropriate category of Rajasthan Government.

Total number of Works	03
Total NIT cost (Rs. in lakhs)	6900.00
Date of online download & upload	05 March 2026 to 26 March 2026 Evening 6:00 PM
Date of technical Bid opening	27 March 2026 11:00 AM

Details related to the tender can be seen on DIPR website www.dipronline.org, www.sppp.raj.nic.in http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and departmental website http://rajswasthya.nic.in.

UBN.-

S.No.	UBN Number
1.	MHS2526WLOB07075
2	MHS2526WLOB07073
3.	NRH2526WLOB07092

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
Medical and Health,
Rajasthan, Jaipur

DIPR/C/4751/2026

HUBLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LTD
(Wholly Owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Superintending Engineer (Ele), Tendering & Procurement Gopanakoppa, Hubballi-580023
Ph : 9448277602, E-mail : seetp.hescom@gmail.com
Corporate Identity Number (CIN): U31401KA2002SGC030437
No: HESCOM/SEE(T&P)/E-7/AEE-2/2025-26/cys-12158
Date : 10.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-Procurement Portal Only)

The undersigned invites tenders in two parts (Part –I: Techno-Commercial Bid and Part-II :Price Bid) through e-procurement portal for manufacture & supply of the following.

Sl.No	Particulars	Enq. No.
1	Manufacture & Supply of 11KV & 33KV CTs & PTs of various ratios required for HT installations	HESCOM/2025-26/IND0173

For further details visit the website : **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on OR after **12.03.2026**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, (Ele)
Tendering & Procurement, HESCOM, Hubballi

DIPR/DWD/KSMCA/1333/2025-26

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WANTED Lady Teachers for Primary & High School. Cont: New Bishop Cotton English High School, Hosur Rd, Singa-Sandra,B'lore-68, Ph:9886415557

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ACCOUNTANT

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080-41611253
080-26624749

ADMINISTRATION

HRD & ADMINISTRATIVE

Required ADMIN ASSISTANT with Experience in Accounts/ Tally/ GST. Contact: "IRSHADS" 98458-41310/ Email: info@irshads property.com

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3.Submission Requirements: Interested firms must Email their proposals in pdf format : File A (Technical Bid): Profile, experience, CVs of key personnel, and approach to the project, Association of local Architects at Jaipur. File B (Financial Bid): Professional fees (as a percentage of project cost or lump sum).
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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Zakir Husain Kazi, S/o Tajuddin Kazi, aged about 53 years, residing at Kodichickenahalli Bus Stop, Lake View Residency, Flat No. KLS-5 (T5), Bengaluru - 560076, hereby declare that my name is mentioned as "Zakir Husain" in some of my documents and as "Zakir Husain Kazi" in other documents. Both names refer to one and the same person, i.e., myself. Henceforth, I shall be known and identified only as "Zakir Husain Kazi" for all purposes. This declaration is made as per the Affidavit sworn before the Notary Public Sri. Mohammed Hussain K on 09-03-2026.

I, Ankita, D/o Indra Pal Singh and W/o Abhishek Sachan, R/o 1706, Mount Valley, Arsis Green Hills, Bhattarhalli, KR Puram, Bangalore – 560049, have changed my name from Ankita to Ankita Sachan. Henceforth, I shall be known as Ankita Sachan for all purposes.

I, D Basavraj S/O Doddegowda born on 21/12/1979 residing at No 634, 36 main, Ideal Homes Township, Rajarajeshwari Nagar Bangalore 560098 have changed my name to D Basavaraju vide affidavit dt 07/03/2026 at Bangalore

I Rajappan Ajith Kumar S/O Rajappan residing at Mayooram,Kuthirapanthy,Alappuzha,Kerala have changed my name from Rajappan Ajith Kumar to Ajith Kumar R for all future purposes include my Air Force records.

I, CATHERINE ANITA S Residing at Bsnl Qtr # 5, Bazaar street,Halasuru,Bangalore - 560008 have changed my name to CATHERINE ANITA for all future purposes vide Notarized Affidavit dtd 09.03.2026

I, Abhinandan B V (Old Passport: Abhinandan Basathalli Venkatarthnam) R/o #188/1, Vapasandra, Chikkaballapur-562101. Changed my name as Abhinandan Basathalli Venkatarathnam.

I R Sandeep Aariz S/O, S R Kumar R/o #1244, 45th Cross, Bendre Nagar, Kumaraswamy Layout 1st Stage, Bangalore 560078 have changed my name to Sandeep R.

I Sinchana Vanaki, w/o of Vishal Vanaki, resident of Bangalore changed my name from Usha T to Sinchana Vanaki affidavit dated 02-03-2026 Notary by S. N. Madhu.

I, Meera Venugopalan W/O, Prabhu Nagarathnam R/o B 305, Sterling Shalom Apts., Itpl Rd,Kundalahalli,B'luru-560037 have changed my name to Meera Prabhu for all purposes.

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LOST & FOUND

I, Delhi Raghavendra Rao (Husband of Geetha Rao) have Lost our Sale deed documents Situated in "Ayyampalyam Village of Sathyamangalam Taluk, Gopichettypalayam Dist., Doc No - 1501/1993, Sy No - 44/1, 44/2, Plot No - 232,233, (Area Extend 14000 Sqft in VHF Selve Bluemoon Garden City, Phase XVIII) (SRO Punjai Pullampatti), While Some Personal Work in B'lore Near Byappanahalli Metro Station, Case Registered No - 2090127/2026. Sakala No - P00128260000620. Aff No - IN-KA00050202395257Y. Finder Please Contact or Return to This Address : Delhi Raghavendra Rao C/O Nanjan, Do/ 125/1, Ittangur, Sarjapur Circle, Anekal, B'lore Urban - 562125. Phone - 9848265163

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THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026

RAJNATH UNVEILS VISION 2047 ROADMAP TO BUILD TECH-DRIVEN, FUTURE-READY MILITARY FORCE

HIMANTA-LED ASSAM GOVT TRANSFERS ₹9,000 EACH TO 40 LAKH WOMEN AHEAD OF STATE POLLS

HACK OF THE DAY — **SCAN DOCUMENTS WITHOUT THIRD-PARTY APPS**

WHAT IT SOLVES: Eliminates the need for bulky scanners or risky third-party apps to digitize receipts, forms, and signed contracts.

WHAT TO DO: Use the built-in scanner in Google Drive to create high-quality, searchable PDFs directly on your smartphone.

STEPS:

1. Open the Google Drive app and tap the "+" icon.
2. Select Scan (camera icon) and point it at your document.
3. Tap the shutter button or let it capture automatically.
4. Use Crop & Rotate to fix edges or "+" to add more pages to the same PDF.
5. Tap Save to store the file securely in your cloud storage.

CAREFUL: Ensure high-contrast lighting to prevent shadows, as the AI might struggle to distinguish document edges on dark or patterned surfaces.

Hacks are based on verified public sources. Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules

Tip from **arghanshu.bose**@timesinternet

Scan for more hacks

Scolded over cricket, youth ends life

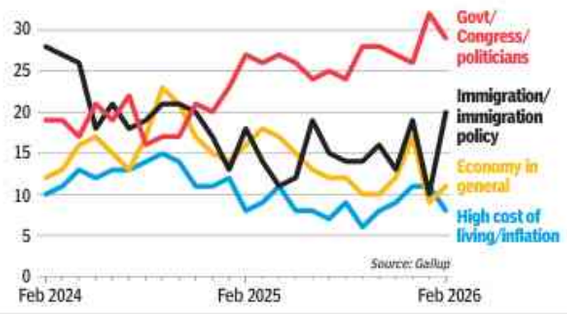
A 23-year-old BSc student died by suicide after being scolded by his grandfather for watching the India-New Zealand T20 final on his mobile phone in UP's Gonda district Sunday night, reports **Pathikrit Chakraborty.** Police said Mohit Chaubey, a second-year BSc student from Narayanpur Mardan village, was reprimanded and his phone taken away. Upset, he went to the roof and was later found unresponsive. Kotwal Shamsher Singh said the body has been sent for autopsy. Mohit was the youngest among three brothers.

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

Did Trump make govt & politicians #1 problem of America?

In a poll conducted last month (before the US-Israel strikes on Iran), Americans ranked govt and political leadership as the nation's top problem — exceeding 25% in most months since Trump's return to office a year ago

Share of respondents (%) flagging issues as US's top problem



SC hearing on Sonam Wangchuk detention case adjourned again

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Tuesday adjourned hearing on the plea challenging the preventive detention of climate activist Sonam Wangchuk by a week to March 17. The petition filed by his wife has been listed 24 times over last five months, but the hearing has remained inconclusive so far.

Proceedings in the case have got prolonged as the petitioner as well as Centre sought adjournments and also because the court could not spare time for it owing to heavy caseload. The activist was taken under preventive detention on Sep 26 amidst violence in Ladakh; his wife Gitanjali Angmo immediately moved the apex court, which took up her case for the first time on Oct 6 last year, issuing a notice on her petition. TNN

IISc makes chip to secure IoT devices from quantum threats

Chethan.Kumar
@@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Researchers from IISc have developed a compact, low-power chip designed to help protect Internet of Things (IoT) devices from future cyber threats posed by quantum computers.

The work was led by Utsav Banerjee, assistant professor in the department of electronic systems engineering, along with his PhD student Krishna Sai Tarun Ramapragada. According to IISc, the team built a specialised hardware component that can verify "quantum-safe" digital signatures using a method called SQIsign.

SQIsign is a digital signature method designed to remain secure even against future quantum computers.

It works like a digital seal placed on a document or message. This seal proves that the message was sent by the correct source and confirms that it has not been altered

In simple terms, it works like a digital seal placed on a document or message. This seal proves that the message was sent by the correct source and confirms that it has not been altered. Most online security today relies on encryption systems that are extremely difficult for ordinary computers to crack. These systems protect everything from bank transactions to software updates.

However, scientists warn that powerful quantum computers in the future could solve some of these complex mathematical problems much faster than today's machines. If that happens, many encryption systems currently in use could become vulnerable.

To prepare for this possibility, researchers around the world are developing what is known as post-quantum cryptography. These are new security methods designed to remain safe even if quantum computers become powerful enough to break existing systems.

The challenge is that many of these new security methods require much more computing power and memory. This creates problems for small, connected devices such as smart sensors, wearable gadgets, home automation systems and industrial monitoring equipment.

Such devices form part of IoT, where thousands of small devices communicate with each other and with cloud servers. These devices often run on small batteries and have limited processing capacity.

The IISc team focused on solving this problem by designing a specialised chip that can carry out one key task very efficiently: checking digital signatures created using SQIsign.

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Frame no-fault payout policy for Covid vax: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the Centre to frame a no-fault compensation policy for those who suffered serious adverse events following Covid vaccinations.

The apex court said the existing mechanism for monitoring adverse events following immunisation shall continue and relevant data be periodically placed in the public domain in accordance with the observations made by the apex court in its May 2022 verdict in the Jacob Puliyel case.

"No separate court appointed expert body is considered necessary in view of the existing mechanism for scientific assessment of adverse events following immunisation," a division bench of justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said.

While pronouncing the judgement, Justice Nath clarified that its verdict shall not preclude any person from pursuing such other remedies as may be available in law. PTI

SC: Grounds of divorce in Muslim marriage remain asymmetrical

▶ Continued from page 1

Appearing for PIL petitioner Poulomi P Shukla, Bhushan said it is inconceivable that Muslim women in Uttarakhand, which has enacted UCC, would enjoy equal property inheritance rights with their male siblings, but Muslim women in Delhi or other states in India would be deprived of the same.

It said inequalities in inheritance rights of women compared to their male siblings are present even in Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) and tribal societies. "This court has already recommended in its judgment the directive principles of state policies under Article 44 (UCC)," the bench said. SC told Bhushan that he has made a very good case of discrimination against Muslim women but striking down of a standalone provision does not take away the discrimination that inheres within the Muslim personal law.

HISTORY OF SC DIRECTIVES ON UCC

1985 Shah Bano judgment | SC said, 'A common civil code will help cause of national integration by removing disparate loyalties to law which have conflicting ideologies'

1995 Sarla Mudgal judgment | SC said, 'Where more than 80% of citizens have already been brought under codified personal law, there is no justification to keep in abeyance anymore the introduction of UCC for all citizens of India'

2003 John Vallamattom judgment | SC had highlighted the desirability of achieving the goal set by Article 44 of the Constitution

2019 Jose Paulo Coutinho judgment | SC said, 'Though Hindu laws were codified in 1956, there has been no attempt to frame a uniform civil code applicable to all citizens of the country despite exhortations of the SC in the cases of Shah Bano and Sarla Mudgal'

"Triple talaq is declared unconstitutional (and subsequently banned by a Parliament enacted legislation). But the grounds of divorce in Muslim marriage remain asymmetrical. The right to dissolution of marriage by Muslim women continues to be limited under the 1937 Act. But a Muslim man has much wider grounds to give divorce," Justice Bagchi said. CJI Kant said, "The most effective answer, as articulated by Justice Bagchi, is UCC."

Bhushan said this is ideal, but till that comes, should Muslim women continue to suffer violation of their Article 14 right to equality in inheritance, which is not an essential religious practice, but a civil right.

'Used my hand to block its jaws'

▶ Continued from page 1

In spite of sheer terror, the teenager didn't panic. He knew the predator would go for his neck, so he used his hands to block its jaws every time it tried to lunge for his jugular while screaming for help. Despite suffering multiple injuries to his hands, arms, shoulders, back, and a cut under one eye, Parvesh kept fighting. For at least 10 terrifying minutes, the life and death struggle continued, with the predator craning its neck repeatedly to clamp down on Parvesh's neck but biting only air as he held off its jaws, calling out to his father for help. "I grabbed the skin of its lower jaw and yanked down with full strength while holding back its upper jaw with the other hand. I was surprised when it fell. I picked up a stick and hit it again and again."

'Fake post allowed to remain online for 2 days can ruin reputation'

▶ Continued from page 1

Opposing Centre's argument, senior advocate Arvind Datar told a CJI-led bench the govt already is empowered to issue take down orders and a social media platform or intermediary is bound to remove or take down such content within 48 hours of receiving the notice.

CJI Kant said if a fake post demolishing the reputation of a person is allowed to remain active for 48 hours, that person's dignity and reputation would be sullied beyond repair.

"Look at the way some of these platforms are behaving. Some of the illustrations put on record by the govt shows how dangerous these are. Such fake news can damage the reputation of the nation and institutions as well. We will examine all these issues," the CJI-led bench said.

Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata

CORRIGENDUM-NOTICE

Some changes in [Tender No. SDM (P&E)/T/28/2025-2026] E-Tender No. 2026_KoPT_893751_1 for "integrated development & Mechanization of Berth No. 9 and 10 (erstwhile Berth No. 8 and 9) on DBFOT basis at Haldia Dock Complex, SMPA" for 30 years have been incorporated in "Corrigendum-V Notice". The Bidding Document (in full) and "Corrigendum-V Notice" are available in https://smp.smportkolkata.in and bidding process through https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app only.

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Corrigendum – MADC RECRUITMENT – 2026

MADC RECRUITMENT NOTICE 2026 PUBLISHED ON MADC OFFICIAL WEBSITE ON 07/03/2026

With reference to the MADC Recruitment Notice 2026 published in the newspaper dated 07/03/2026, it is hereby informed that, the last date for submission of applications is hereby extended to 27/03/2026 and there are few other changes in advertisement.

For the details visit **www.madcindia.org**. Details will be available on the website from **11/03/2026 from 13.00 hours**.

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Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for admission to M.E. / M.Tech. / M.Arch & M.Plan. degree programmes offered at *University Departments, Constituent Colleges of Anna University, Annamalai University and Government & Government Aided Engineering Colleges only* through CEETA-PG. **A stipend of Rs. 60,000 per semester will be awarded to top-ranked CEETA-PG qualified candidates, as per norms.**

Candidates can register and submit their applications online only through the link: https://tancet.annauniv.edu/tancet

The Hall Ticket and Mark Sheet shall be made available for download only through this web portal.

FEES AND DATE OF ENTRANCE TEST

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IMPORTANT DATES			
	i)	Commencement of Registration (online only)	16.03.2026
	ii)	Last date for Registration	10.04.2026

ELIGIBILITY: Details of the eligibility criteria and the procedure for registration are available in TANCET Web portal **https://tancet.annauniv.edu/tancet**.

DIPR/290/Display/2026

SECRETARY, TANCET

No. A.12024/1/2024-E-IV
Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resources,
River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation

VACANCY NOTICE

Mahadayi Water Management Scheme, 2023 has been notified in the Gazette of India vide Notification No.S.O.2238(E) dated 22.05.2023. The said scheme mandates to constitute an Authority called as Mahadayi PRAWAH (Progressive River Authority for Welfare And Harmony) to give effect to the decisions of the Mahadayi Water Dispute Tribunal (MWDT). The Authority has come into existence w.e.f. the date of Notification and would be a body corporate and having three party States namely Goa, Maharashtra, and Karnataka with its Headquarters at Goa. All the Capital and Revenue Expenditure required to be incurred by the Authority shall be borne by the State Governments of Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra in equal ratio.

2. Applications are invited from eligible and suitable officers for filling up the following posts in Mahadayi PRAWAH (Progressive River Authority for Welfare & Harmony), Goa on deputation (including short-term contract) basis:

S. No.	Name of the post	Pay Scale	No. of Posts.
1.	Member (Environmental Issues)	Level- 14 (Rs. 144200-218200)	01
2.	Member (Hydrology)	Level-14 (Rs. 144200-218200)	01
3.	Member (Monitoring and Regulation)	Level- 14 (Rs. 144200-218200)	01
4.	Director (Finance)	Level- 13 (Rs. 123100-215900)	01

3. Details of the post, eligibility conditions etc. are available at **jalshakti-dowr.gov.in, dopt.gov.in..** Applications **(in triplicate)** complete in all respect of suitable and eligible officers and who can be spared immediately in the event of selection may be sent through proper channel to:- The Under Secretary (Estt. IV), Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Room No. 435 (B), Shram Shakti Bhavan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi - 110 001 and by email at **use4-mowr@nic.in** & **soe4-mowr@nic.in**, within a period of 45 days from the date of issue/ publishing of this Advertisement in the Employment News.

4. **Advance copies of application not forwarded through proper channel or application received after the prescribed period or not accompanied with the requisite information/ documents are liable to be rejected.**

Sd/-
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Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tele. No.: 011-23716252
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[**Note:** The English version shall always prevail in case of any discrepancy or inconsistency between English version and its Hindi translation.]

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CORRIGENDUM
VACANCY NOTICE FOR SELECTION TO THE POST OF MEMBER (PLANNING) IN RLDA

PLEASE REFER TO VACANCY NOTICE PUBLISHED ON 24.01.2026 FOR SELECTION OF MEMBER/PLANNING/RLDA. THE CLOSING DATE OF VACANCY NOTICE MAY BE READ AS 23.03.2026 (17:30 HRS) INSTEAD OF 06.03.2026 (17:30 HRS).

OTHER CONTENTS WILL REMAIN SAME.

The applications may be sent to office of Sh. Ravi Shekhar, Joint Secretary (Deputation), Ministry of Railways, Room No. 152-J, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi-110001 and also through e-mail to **eo2@rb.railnet.gov.in** by issuing date.

For complete details of this vacancy, please visit our website **https://rlda.indianrailways.gov.in** under the heading **'Career'** or at Railway Board website: **www.indianrailways.gov.in/railwayboard.**

The complete vacancy notice has been published in Employment Newspaper on 07.02.2026.

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA
Bengaluru Regional Office

Public Notice

Directions under Section 35A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 – The Amanath Co-operative Bank Ltd., Bangalore - Extension of Period

The Reserve Bank of India issued Directions under Section 35A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 to The Amanath Co-operative Bank Ltd., Bangalore vide Directive No. CO.DOS.SED.No.S1931/12-23-001/2024-2025 dated June 12, 2024 for a period of six months up to close of business on December 12, 2024, which was last extended vide Directive No. DOR.MON/D-43/12.23.001/2025-26 dated December 03, 2025. The Reserve Bank of India is satisfied that in the public interest, it is necessary to further extend the period of operation of the Directive beyond close of business on March 12, 2026.

2. Accordingly, the Reserve Bank of India, in the exercise of powers vested in it under subsection (1) of Section 35A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, hereby extends the Directive for a further period of three months from close of business on March 12, 2026 to close of business on June 12, 2026, subject to review.

3. Other terms and conditions of the Directive under reference, shall remain unchanged.

Bengaluru — Sd/-
Date: March 11, 2026 — **Regional Director**

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक
बेंगलूरु क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय

सार्वजनिक सूचना

बैंककारी विनियमन अधिनियम, 1949 की धारा 56 के साथ पठित धारा 35 ए के अंतर्गत निदेश – दि अमानाथ को-ऑपरेटिव बैंक लिमिटेड, बैंगलोर – अवधि बढ़ाना

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक ने बैंककारी विनियमन अधिनियम, 1949 की धारा 56 के साथ पठित धारा 35 ए के अंतर्गत दिनांक 12 जून 2024 के निदेश सं. CO.DOS.SED.No.S1931/12-23-001/2024-2025 द्वारा दि अमानाथ को-ऑपरेटिव बैंक लिमिटेड, बैंगलोर को 12 दिसंबर 2024 को कारोबार की समाप्ति तक छह माह की अवधि के लिए निदेश जारी किए थे, जिसे पिछली बार दिनांक 03 दिसम्बर 2025 के निदेश सं. DOR.MON/D-43/12.23.001/2025-26 द्वारा बढ़ाया गया था। भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक इस बात से संतुष्ट है कि जनहित में उक्त निदेश की परिचालन अवधि को 12 मार्च 2026 को कारोबार की समाप्ति से आगे बढ़ाया जाना आवश्यक है।

2. तदनुसार, भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक, बैंककारी विनियमन अधिनियम, 1949 की धारा 56 के साथ पठित धारा 35ए की उप-धारा (1) के अंतर्गत प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए, एतद्द्वारा उक्त निदेश की वैधता अवधि को अगले तीन महीने की अवधि के लिए, 12 मार्च 2026 को कारोबार की समाप्ति से 12 जून 2026 को कारोबार की समाप्ति तक बढ़ाता है, जो कि समीक्षाधीन होगा।

3. संदर्भाधीन निदेश के अन्य नियम एवं शर्तें यथावत् रहेंगी।

बेंगलूरु — **हस्ता./-**
दिनांक: 11 मार्च 2026 — **क्षेत्रीय निदेशक**

Why lifestyle & diet may hold keys to reducing risk of breast cancer

Packaged snacks, red meat and sedentariness are factors that can make big difference to threat spectrum

Anuja.Jaiswal@timesofindia.com

WHAT TO EAT
VS
WHAT TO AVOID
Fruits, vegetables, whole grains (can lower risk by 38-40%)
Red & processed meat (linked to 12% of global breast cancer deaths)
Lentils, legumes, nuts and seeds
Refined grains, sugary drinks, desserts (High-GI foods linked to 5% higher risk)
Dietary fibre (high intake can lower risks by 5-12%)
UPFs high on saturated fats (linked to 25% higher risk)
Fish and poultry (moderate)
Alcohol (A daily drink raises risk by 7-10%)

How else to cut breast cancer risk?
Stop smoking
Trim your waistline
Do regular exercise
Screen regularly after 40
Signs to look out for
1 Lump in breast or underarm
2 Change in breast size or shape
3 Persistent breast pain
4 Nipple discharge or inversion

Lifestyle choices and dietary factors could be quietly shaping the risk spectrum for breast cancer, one of the largest global studies to have been done on the subject indicates. For Indian doctors, the findings are a vindication of what they have been telling their parents — that small decisions one takes in daily life can make a big difference in disease threat assessment.

"Modern diets are dominated by processed carbs, high-GI (glycemic index) foods and too much red meat," says Dr Mandeep Singh Malhotra, director of surgical oncology at CK Birla Hospital, Delhi. "These stimulate insulin and insulin-like growth factor pathways that promote cell proliferation and may contribute to cancer development."

Dr Malhotra cites the case of a 38-year-old corporate professional recently diagnosed with breast cancer. She had no direct family history but her lifestyle threw up several red flags. "She had a sedentary work routine, an improper eating schedule, and frequently relied on ultra-processed foods (UPFs), apart from regular alcohol intake and occasional smoking." She is currently undergoing chemotherapy with a surgery to be planned in due course, he adds.

What prevention looks like

Published in The Lancet Oncology this month, the study looked at breast cancer data from 204 countries over a 33-year period from 1990-2023. In India, incidence of the disease, it found, had more than doubled from 13 per 1 lakh women in 1990 to 29.4 in 2023. But while numbers are going up, it also identified lifestyle as one of the most important areas for prevention.

Roshika Tiwari, cancer genomics and metabolomics researcher at Art of Healing Cancer, Gurgaon, says it's the broader dietary patterns — rather than individual foods — that appear to influence cancer growth. "High consumption of red and processed meat, UPFs and refined carbs, along with low intake of fibre, fruits and vegetables, can promote chronic inflammation, insulin resistance and hormonal imbalance, all of which are known contributors to cancer surge."

According to the study, 12% of breast cancer deaths worldwide in 2021 — nearly 80,000 — were linked to high red meat consumption. Red meat is usually unprocessed mutton, lamb, beef and pork, while processed meats include foods preserved through curing, smoking or chemical treatment (bacon, sausages, ham). These foods contain curing compounds like nitrates and nitrites, and cooking them at high temperatures can produce carcinogenic chemicals that may trigger cellular changes linked to cancer. International agencies have already classified processed meat as a carcinogen. Rising intake of UPFs is also a major cause for concern. Studies show that women with the highest consumption of fast foods and ultra-processed products may have a 25% higher risk of breast cancer compared with those consuming the least.

> **The link between breast cancer incidence, mortality and unhealthy dietary habits is becoming more evident**
> **Monita Gahlot,** DIETICIAN AT AIIMS NEW DELHI

Tiwari points out that post-menopausal women are particularly vulnerable as such diets are often high in sugars and unhealthy fats, and can further contribute to obesity, insulin resistance and chronic inflammation, which is already a risk factor among women in their 50s.

Living in the junk-yard

As quick commerce brings packaged products home in minutes, such easy access to junk food is showing a marked shift in disease patterns, say doctors. "As nations continue to develop economically and adopt these lifestyle changes, the link between breast cancer incidence, mortality and unhealthy dietary habits is becoming more evident," says AIIMS Delhi dietician Monita Gahlot.

It's widely established that UPFs lead to obesity. "And higher body fat leads to a hyper-estrogenic state that can stimulate breast tissue and raise malignancy risks. Regular physical activity helps counter these mechanisms," says Dr Malhotra. Another of his patients, a 58-year-old woman with diabetes, was diagnosed with breast cancer after gaining weight post-menopause. Fortunately, her cancer was detected at a treatable stage. She is now "on a surgery protocol followed by hormone therapy".

Such cases reflect two distinct patterns — younger women with sedentary, high-stress lifestyles, and older post-menopausal women with obesity and metabolic disorders who are prone to developing hormone-dependent breast cancers. Alcohol is another risk factor as studies suggest even moderate drinking can raise estrogen levels and produce acetaldehyde, a compound known to damage DNA.

Go green, get fibre & fitter

"Healthier diets, regular physical activity, maintaining normal body weight and limiting alcohol consumption could significantly reduce the future breast cancer burden," says Dr Rajeev Vijayakumar, senior consultant oncologist at Gleneagles BGS Hospital, Bengaluru. Consuming more fruits and vegetables has been linked to lower risk in several large analyses as these foods contain bioactive compounds like flavonoids, carotenoids and vitamins that may help inhibit cancer development through antioxidant and anti-inflammatory effects. Dietary fibre may also offer protective benefits by lowering circulating estrogen levels, improving insulin sensitivity and supporting healthy gut microbiota.

LATEST IN HEALTH RESEARCH

High altitudes can be better for blood sugar control

Environments with low-oxygen, typically at high altitudes, can help with better blood sugar control, a study published in Cell Metabolism has found. According to Medical News Today, the researchers looked at mice models to find that during chronic hypoxia, caused by scarce oxygen in the air, red blood cells increased their glucose-consuming capacity through two mechanisms — first they multiplied in numbers and then, each RBC turned into a 'glucose sponge' to soak up more sugar in order to fuel their own increased energy needs, thereby also reducing glucose levels in the bloodstream.

Cannabis compounds could help fight fatty liver disease

Hebrew University of Jerusalem scientists have identified two compounds from the cannabis plant that can fight fatty liver disease through "metabolic remodelling" at the cellular level, reports ScienceDaily. Their study found that compounds Cannabidiol (CBD) and Cannabigerol (CBG) — both don't cause intoxication — can raise the levels of a liver molecule called phosphocreatine, which gives backup energy to maintain normal liver function when the organ is exposed to a high-fat diet. CBD and CBG also reactivated cathepsins, enzymes that help the liver break down and remove toxic fats and waste.

Can immune system of camels give us a new, powerful dengue antidote?

IISER Mohali team harnesses nanobodies that can neutralise all four strains of virus

Shimona.Kanwar@timesofindia.com

In a breakthrough that sounds like science fiction but is rooted in rigorous biological research, scientists at Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Mohali have discovered a potential new weapon against dengue in an unlikely place: the immune system of the camel. Led by Dr Sharvan Sehrawat, the team has successfully harnessed nanobodies — miniature, ultra-tough versions of antibodies — to neutralise all four strains of the dengue virus.

This discovery could come as a major relief for India, which currently accounts for nearly one-third of the global dengue burden (around 60 lakh infections annually). The study, published in Immuno Horizons, marks the first time such a technology has been developed in the country, offering a potential cure for a disease that strikes with regularity, particularly after rains.

WHAT SCIENTISTS DID

- Built a library of over 200 million antibodies from camel samples
- Selected ones that showed a high affinity for binding to dengue virus
- Antibodies were first tested in cell cultures to ensure they could prevent virus from infecting cells
- Successful candidates were tested in mice, where they demonstrated effective neutralisation of virus
- Team is currently working on bivalent antibodies — a more robust second-generation version designed to bind to two different antigens

Dengue is a tricky disease. With most other diseases, a first infection leaves one immune. But with dengue, a second infection with a different strain can actually be more lethal. This is due to Antibody-Dependent Enhancement (ADE), which in simple terms means that the antibodies from the first infection can grab the new virus but can't kill it. Instead, they inadvertently help the virus enter human cells more easily, leading to severe complications such as internal bleeding and shock syndrome. This 'backfiring' of the immune system has made vaccine development a global medical conundrum.

TECHNOLOGY FOR HEALTH

Camels possess a unique biological quirk: they produce antibodies that can easily be formatted as 'single-domain antibodies' or nanobodies. Unlike human antibodies, which are large and complex, nanobodies are stripped down to their most essential viral-fighting components. Crucially, they lack the 'Fc region' — the specific part of a conventional antibody that is suspected of triggering the dangerous ADE effect. "Since these nanobodies are missing the piece that causes the disease to enhance, they are inherently safer," explains Dr Sehrawat, associate professor at IISER Mohali. "They are smaller and tougher, and can reach parts of the virus that larger human antibodies simply cannot."

The research team didn't just find one antibody, it built a massive 'molecular library' containing over 200 million antibody sequences derived from camel samples. By searching through this library, the team identified a specific nanobody that clings to the dengue virus's 'envelope protein' — the key the virus uses to unlock human cells. By jamming this lock, the nanobody halts the infection in its tracks. In laboratory tests and animal trials, results astonished the researchers. Mice with lethal dengue infections showed total recovery. The treatment significantly lowered viral loads and prevented organ inflammation. Unlike current experimental treatments, no adverse reactions were recorded.

The IISER team is now looking towards the next frontier, which is to explore ways for mass production. Instead of expensive, high-tech factories, it is turning to 'molecular farming'. The researchers have successfully grown these antibodies inside lab plants like tobacco and Arabidopsis (small flowering plants in the cabbage and mustard family). However, the goal is to move production into common fruits like bananas. "Plants produce a lot of biomass quickly," says Dr Sehrawat. "In future, we could potentially harvest these medicines from fruit, making the treatment much cheaper and accessible to the masses."

While the first-generation treatment is effective, it requires daily doses. The IISER team is now working on a 'bivalent' version that involves injecting a super-antibody into a dengue patient. This, according to the researchers, is a single-injection treatment.

IISER has received approval from the Indian Council for Medical Research for a three-year project to upscale the therapy.

Tourette's makes people twitch or blurt. It isn't bad behaviour

ASK THE DOCTOR

A special announcement greeted the audience at last month's BAFTA awards in London: "John has Tourette's syndrome, so please be aware you might hear some involuntary noises or movements during the ceremony." It was about John Davidson, whose life story was adapted into the award-winning movie 'I Swear'. He has a severe form of the condition, which causes him to inadvertently utter offensive words or phrases, his verbal 'tics' at the event causing much debate. Neurologist **Dr Sangeeta Ravat** from Mumbai's KEM Hospital tells **Eshan Kalyanikar** that the condition could be more common in India than we think, and why we need to raise awareness and be more sensitive about it.

■ BAFTA's brush with Tourette's syndrome has made everybody curious, especially after the racist slurs uttered by Davidson. What exactly is the condition and how prevalent is it in India?

Tourette's syndrome is a brain-based neurodevelopmental condition that causes involuntary movements and sounds. We call them tics. These usually start during childhood. It is not extremely rare. About one in a hundred children may have it. In India, few large studies exist and many mild cases probably go undiagnosed. There is a lack of awareness about it. However, at our OPDs, the staff can now instantly identify a case of Tourette's and refer the person to the neurology department.

■ What are the genetic factors associated with it?

The syndrome is rarely caused by a single gene. Instead, it is considered a polygenic disorder which means that there are numerous genes, each contributing a small amount to the overall risk. These genes influence brain cell growth, the development of specific regions, and the regulation of neurochemicals. In rare cases, mutations in specific genes such as SLITRK1 or NRXN1 have been identified. While genetic factors increase susceptibility, they do not provide certainty. Possessing risk genes does not guarantee a Tourette's syndrome diagnosis, but it does mean that the brain is more biologically predisposed to developing tics.

■ Could you explain what happens inside the brain of a person with Tourette's syndrome?

The hormone and neurotransmitter dopamine is the brain messenger that helps regulate movement. In Tourette's syndrome, dopamine activity appears to be too strong or imbalanced in movement-control circuits. This is especially in the basal ganglia and frontal cortex of the brain. The result is unintended motor and vocal outputs.

John Davidson at the BAFTA awards

■ What role does coprolalia have to play in it, and why is it associated with utterance of foul words?

Coprolalia is the involuntary uttering of words in repetition. Most commonly, these are socially inappropriate or offensive words or phrases. Those with coprolalia have no intention to hurt anyone with their words. It's purely involuntary. Though it is not very common and occurs in about 10-15% of people with Tourette's syndrome, we still do not fully understand the 'why' and 'how' behind it. But as medical science and research is advancing, we certainly understand more about the condition than we had ever before.

■ What's most important for a parent in India who is noticing these symptoms to keep in mind?

Parents must know that tics are involuntary and neurological — this is not "bad behaviour" and it's not the kid's fault. Punishment in such circumstances is uncalled for and can have a negative impact on the child's well-being. Instead, the child needs medical assessment and parental support.

■ How is Tourette's syndrome treated at KEM Hospital?

We see patients with the condition from across the state and even the country. However, they come to us through several referrals; direct walk-ins are rare. There is no cure to Tourette's syndrome, but the tics can be managed with therapy, medication, and support. With appropriate care, most people with Tourette's syndrome can lead normal and fulfilling lives.

TIPS, TRENDS & TECH

KNOW YOUR VITAL STATS

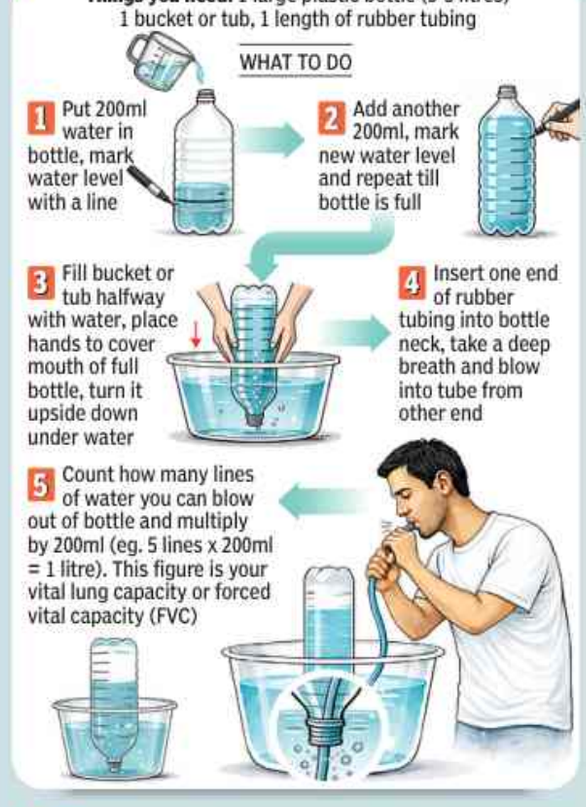
How healthy are your lungs? These simple tests will tell you

Lung health is not just about breathing better. Every breath affects your heart, immune system, weight and your brain. Here are two at-home tests that determine how good your lung capacity is

BOTTLE TEST

Things you need: 1 large plastic bottle (3-5 litres)
1 bucket or tub, 1 length of rubber tubing

WHAT TO DO


1 Put 200ml water in bottle, mark water level with a line
2 Add another 200ml, mark new water level and repeat till bottle is full
3 Fill bucket or tub halfway with water, place hands to cover mouth of full bottle, turn it upside down under water
4 Insert one end of rubber tubing into bottle neck, take a deep breath and blow into tube from other end
5 Count how many lines of water you can blow out of bottle and multiply by 200ml (eg. 5 lines x 200ml = 1 litre). This figure is your vital lung capacity or forced vital capacity (FVC)

> **Test looks at volume of air you can breathe out. Though lung capacity declines with age, healthy lungs have enough power to supply body with oxygen and remove carbon dioxide throughout one's lifespan. But if rate of decline rises, health and quality of life may be impacted**
> **John Dickinson,** HEAD, EXERCISE RESPIRATORY CLINIC, UNIVERSITY OF KENT

3-5 litres: Healthy FVC
0.2 litres: Natural decline of FVC per decade due to ageing, according to American Lung Association, even in healthy people who have never smoked

EXHALE TEST

WHAT TO DO

- Take a deep breath and count how long you can breathe out slowly
- This assesses resting breathing frequency, or for how long you can exhale before needing to inhale again
- You should be able to exhale slowly for at least 11 seconds

Lung function peak

A May 2025 study by Spanish researchers looked at 30,000 people to find lung function peaks in one's 20s before declining, with women peaking years earlier than men. Air pollution, smoking, and asthma flare-ups can speed up this decline

Doc's guide to better lung health

Test: Get a lung function test (LFT) every 10 years, or immediately if you have breathlessness. LFT uses a spirometer to measure breath speed and volume

Exercise: Physical activity improves strength, endurance of breathing muscles, reduces inflammation in airways. Quit smoking and vaping

Diet: Vits C, E, antioxidants and fish oils can protect lung walls from damage. Too much salt can make fibrosis and lung inflammation worse

Weigh: Watch out for excess body fat, especially around belly as it reduces room for lungs to fill with air

Sing: Singing long phrases needs proper control and flexibility — of diaphragm, muscles in abdomen and those in between ribs

Breathe: Inspiratory muscle training (IMT), breathing in through device that gives a resistance, boosts respiratory muscle strength

Source: BBC

WHICH ONE IS HEALTHIER?

Quinoa	1 cup (cooked)	Dalia
210-230	CALORIES	170-190
34-36g	CARBS	35-38g
8-9g	PROTEIN	5-6g
4-5g	FAT	2-3g
4-5g	FIBRE	4-6g

While quinoa is the edible seeds of a grain crop, dalia is essentially broken wheat. Both can be cooked with vegetables for a healthy breakfast or snack. Both are high on fibre and low to moderate on the glycemic index. Quinoa has micronutrients like magnesium, iron and folate, and is especially useful for those who are gluten intolerant or have Celiac disease. Its higher plant protein helps with satiety and makes it useful for diabetics and weight watchers. Dalia has B vitamins, some iron and is a good source of soluble fibre. However, it's not suitable for those with a leaky gut or gluten sensitivity.

Source: **Ishi Khosla,** clinical nutritionist and author, 4G Code to Good Health

Gujarat gallops as India's semiconductor hub

Spearheading India's semiconductor mission, Gujarat introduced a dedicated Semiconductor Policy along with advanced integrated chip manufacturing infrastructure supported by a trained and industry-ready workforce

In an age where intelligence is engineered into every innovation, the smallest components often script the grandest achievements. When the Chandrayaan-3 mission's Vikram lander touched down on the Moon, it made precise, real-time decisions autonomously, powered by Indian technology and artificial intelligence that identified a safe landing site and steered a complex descent. At the heart of this feat were semiconductor chips, tiny yet transformative, holding millions, often billions, of transistors that store, process, and transmit data in fractions of a second , silently driving everything from smartphones and electric vehicles to satellites and defence systems like Akashteer, and ultimately powering the pulse of our connected world.

Gujarat's semiconductor success story

- First state with Gujarat Semiconductor Policy 2022–27
- Fiscal incentives, land allotment, fast-track approvals, assured utilities
- Strategic location, long coastline, major ports
- Connectivity via Delhi–Mumbai Industrial Corridor, airports, highways, rail
- Transparent subsidies, time-bound clearances, investor facilitation

INDIA SEMICONDUCTOR MISSION

Recognising the strategic importance of semiconductors in strengthening India's global technology presence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the India Semiconductor Mission with a landmark incentive package of ₹76,000 crore to build domestic fabrication and display capabilities and reduce import dependence. The vision was reinforced in the Union Budget 2026–27 with the announcement of India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 and an allocation of ₹1,000 crore, signalling a renewed push to expand capacity, deepen industry participation, and create a resilient, self-reliant semiconductor ecosystem aligned with the goals of Viksit Bharat and Atmanirbhar Bharat@2047.

Training manpower

- SAMARTH initiative for industry-ready talent
- ATMP training at Pandit Deendayal Energy University
- Collaboration with Micron Technology and National Skill Development Corporation
- Training in packaging, testing, VLSI, embedded systems, advanced manufacturing
- 1,000+ skilled personnel target in five years
- National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology establishment in Gujarat
- Semiconductor nodes at Sanand and Dholera SIR
- Emerging two-node chip manufacturing network for India

GUJARAT LEADING INDIA'S CHIP MANUFACTURING JOURNEY

Gujarat has emerged at the forefront of India's semiconductor growth by combining facilitative governance with industrial-scale readiness. It was the first state to introduce the Gujarat Semiconductor Policy (2022–27), offering fiscal incentives, land allotment, expedited approvals, and assured access to critical utilities such as power, water, and gas. Strategically located with a long coastline, major ports, and strong connectivity through the Delhi–Mumbai Industrial Corridor, along with airports, highways, and railways, the state ensures seamless operations for global manufacturers.

ANCHORING INVESTMENT AND INNOVATION

The Gujarat State Electronics Mission serves as the state's nodal agency for attracting and facilitating semiconductor investments, offering single-window support for land, utilities, environmental clearances, and approvals. It assists in project structuring, aligns incentives with the Government of India schemes, promotes supplier development, and coordinates infrastructure execution across departments.

The Department of Science & Technology, Gujarat, provides the policy and administrative backbone, working closely with central ministries while linking research, innovation, and skill development initiatives with academia and industry. Together, these institutions ensure that policy intent translates into implementation.

BUILDING INDIA'S SEMICONDUCTOR WORKFORCE

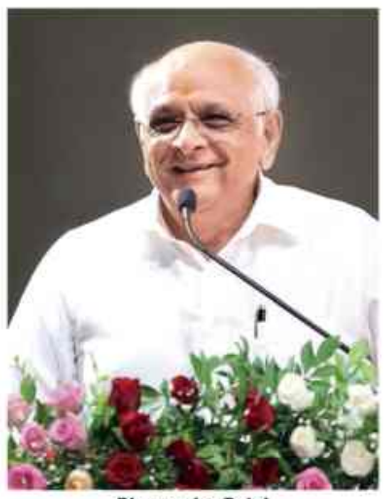
Gujarat is simultaneously investing in talent development to support its expanding semiconductor ecosystem. Initiatives under the Department of Science and Technology, including the SAMARTH project, connect students, educators, and professionals to create industry-ready talent. At Pandit Deendayal Energy University, an advanced ATMP training programme in collaboration with Micron Technology and National Skill Development Corporation provides hands-on exposure in packaging, chip testing, VLSI, embedded systems, and advanced manufacturing. The programme has already trained students, faculty, and industry professionals, with a target of preparing over 1,000 skilled personnel in the next five years.

Complementing this effort, the National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology is being established in Gujarat to train operators, technicians, and technical support staff, ensuring depth across skill levels.

With strong institutional backing and a growing talent pipeline, Gujarat is translating policy into execution. Packaging and testing facilities are taking shape in Sanand, while fabrication-scale ambitions advance at the Dholera Special Investment Region. Together, these developments are shaping a two-node semiconductor network that is redefining India's electronics manufacturing future.

ALL PIC CREDIT: GOVT. OF GUJARAT

Narendra Modi
Honourable Prime Minister



Bhupendra Patel
Honourable Chief Minister

Gujarat has secured nearly 40% of India's approved semiconductor manufacturing capacity, attracting investments of around ₹1.25 lakh crore and accounting for over 75% of the nation's total committed outlay, firmly positioning the state at the forefront of India's chip manufacturing revolution

Gujarat's infra support

- Gujarat State Electronics Mission as nodal agency
- Single-window support for land, utilities, clearances
- Incentive alignment with Government of India schemes
- Supplier development and ecosystem building
- Department of Science & Technology, Gujarat policy and administrative backbone
- Coordination with central ministries, academia and industry

POWERING INDIA'S CHIP AMBITIONS FROM GUJARAT

- Micron Technology has set up a semiconductor manufacturing facility in Gujarat with an investment of ₹22,516 crore. The plant undertakes assembly and testing of DRAM and NAND products for domestic and global markets, with a capacity of about 14 million units per week.
- Tata Electronics is establishing a semiconductor fabrication plant with an investment of ₹91,526 crore in partnership with Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation (PSMC), Taiwan. The facility will have a capacity of approximately 50,000 wafer starts per month.
- CG Power and Industrial Solutions is developing a semiconductor unit with an investment of ₹7,584 crore through a joint venture with Renesas Electronics America and STARS Microelectronics.
- Kaynes Technology India is setting up a semiconductor facility with an investment of ₹3,307 crore, designed to produce over 6.33 million chips per day.

PM inaugurates Sanand Plant

Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated Micron Technology's state-of-the-art ATMP plant in Sanand, Gujarat. The facility will manufacture SSD storage devices along with DRAM and NAND products. It currently employs 2,000 people and is expected to expand to 5,000 direct jobs, creating opportunities for skilled talent from all sections of society, including Divyang citizens.

While inaugurating the plant, the Prime Minister said, "The MoU for this plant was signed in June 2023, the Bhoomi Poojan followed in September 2023, and commercial production began in February 2026, completing the entire journey in just 900 days, a pace rarely seen even in developed nations. This milestone shows that 'India is Ready, India is Reliable and India Delivers.' Sanand is emerging as a semiconductor hub on the global map."

He further said, "We aim to create a complete semiconductor ecosystem spanning design, manufacturing, machinery, and logistics. Semiconductors are the bridge between the Industrial Revolution and the AI revolution. With the launch of India Semiconductor Mission 2.0, rising production will boost demand for materials and components within the country, opening new opportunities for domestic industries."

Gujarat's Honourable Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel stated, "The inauguration of this plant marks a significant step in strengthening the semiconductor ecosystem. Semiconductor chips are the backbone of today's digital age. After leading in sectors such as textiles, diamonds, and pharmaceuticals, Gujarat is now advancing toward becoming a Global Capability Center in emerging areas like AI and semiconductors. The Micron plant is not merely an industrial project, but an investment in the aspirations and future of our youth, aligned with the resolve of 'Viksit Bharat 2047' and the mantra of 'Make in India, Made for the World'."

Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi said, "We are committed to establishing Gujarat as a preferred global destination for semiconductor manufacturing and as the gateway to India's silicon industry through strategic partnerships."

Union Minister for Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw remarked, "This is a historic occasion. A dream cherished for six decades in the semiconductor sector has now become a reality. The journey from foundation to production in just 900 days reflects the spirit of 'Modi hai to mumkin hai.' With Semiconductor 2.0, we are building a complete ecosystem in India, from design to manufacturing and critical inputs. Today, students from more than 315 universities are designing chips, marking a strong step toward a Viksit Bharat."

Micron: One of the world's largest cleanrooms

- Spread across 5 lakh sq ft in the first phase.
- Built using three and a half times the iron used in the Eiffel Tower and concrete equal to 100 Olympic-sized swimming pools.
- Air purity cleaner than an operation theatre with vertically flowing filtered air.
- Raised flooring supports cooling, power and data systems.
- Strict temperature control and strong backup systems ensure seamless operations.

Gujarat hosted the 3rd edition of the Semiconnect Conference 2026

- Convened by the Department of Science & Technology, Gujarat and the Gujarat State Electronics Mission
- Theme: Gujarat: India's Gateway to Silicon
- Brought together global semiconductor CEOs, policymakers and industry leaders
- Focused on next-gen manufacturing, logistics for Dholera and Sanand, GIFT IFSC financing, workforce and electronics ecosystem growth
- Included Micron Suppliers' Roundtable and country-specific sessions
- Showcased projects at Dholera SIR with GSEM, DICDL and Tata Electronics
- Reinforced Gujarat's position as India's semiconductor gateway

कार्यालय मुख्य अभियन्ता, नगर निगम, बरेली
अल्पकालीन पुनः ई-निविदा आमन्त्रण सूचना

पत्रांक: 413/मु0अभि0/नि0वि0/2025-26 दिनांक: 10.03.2026

नगर निगम, बरेली द्वारा नगर निगम, बरेली के कर्मचारियों हेतु रामपुर गार्डन परिसर, बरेली (उ0प्र0) में 2 बी0एच0के एवं 3 बी0एच0के आवासीय भवनों का डिजाइन, इंजीनियरिंग, सामग्री की आपूर्ति, निर्माण, परीक्षण, कमीशनिंग एवं हैंडओवर कार्य EPC (Engineering, Procurement & Construction) (टर्नकी) आधार पर कराये जाने हेतु योग्य, अनुभवी एवं पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों / फर्मों से टू-बिड पद्धति (तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय) के माध्यम से निम्न प्रकार से ई-निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा खोले जाने की तिथि में यदि अवकाश होगा तो निविदायें अगले कार्य दिवस में खोली जायेंगी।

अवस्थापना निधि के अन्तर्गत प्रथम ई-निविदा आमंत्रित हेतु (क्रमांक सं0. 1)	
ई-निविदा डाउनलोड प्रारम्भ की तिथि/समय	12.03.2026 (11:00 AM)
ई-निविदा अपलोड की प्रारम्भ तिथि/समय	12.03.2026 (10:00 PM)
ई-निविदा अपलोड की अन्तिम तिथि/समय	18.03.2026 (05:00 PM)
ई-निविदा खोली जाने की तिथि/समय	19.03.2026 (12:00 PM)
फाईनेशियल ई-निविदा खोली जाने हेतु	After Technical Evaluation

कार्य का विवरण, नियम व शर्तें नगर निगम बरेली के वेबसाईट www.nagarnigambareilly.com पर ई-निविदा लिंक एवं ई-पोर्टल http://etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है। किसी परिवर्तन, संशोधन व अतिरिक्त सूचनाओं के लिये उक्त वेबसाइट पर देखी जा सकती है।

मुख्य अभियन्ता
नगर निगम, बरेली।

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052.

No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/27/2025-26 Date: 10.03.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through GOK KPPP only) (3rd Call)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Approx. Amount put to tender (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (Amount in Rs.)	Time of Completion
1	Primary Collection and Secondary Transportation of Municipal solid waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in RR Nagara-2division (Package-31) Call-03	1,859.56	Rs.1,00,000/- through e- payment mode under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs. 17,60,000/- by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank.	84 Months

1) Last date for uploading Pre-bid Queries in KPP Portal: **15.03.2026 upto 17:30 hrs. 2)** Tender Pre-Bid meeting: **16.03.2026 at 15:00hrs at above mentioned office. 3)** Last Date of Receipt of Tender: **25.03.2026 before 17:30 hrs. 4)** Opening of Technical Bid: **26.04.2026 after 17:30 hrs.**

More details can be downloaded from website - **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/JA/6151/2025-26

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052.

No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/28/2025-26 Date: 10.03.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through GOK KPPP only) (3rd Call)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Approx. Amount put to tender (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (Amount in Rs.)	Time of Completion
1	Primary Collection and Secondary Transportation of Municipal solid waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in Byatarayanapura division (Package-33) Call-03	2,265.34	Rs.1,00,000/- through e- payment mode under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs. 21,65,000/- by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank.	84 Months

1) Last date for uploading Pre-bid Queries in KPP Portal: **15.03.2026 upto 17:30 hrs.** 2) Tender Pre-Bid meeting: **16.03.2026 at 15:00hrs at above mentioned office. 3)** Last Date of Receipt of Tender: **25.03.2026 before 17:30 hrs. 4)** Opening of Technical Bid: **26.04.2026 after 17:30 hrs.**

More details can be downloaded from website - **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/JA/6152/2025-26

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052

No.DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/19/2025-26 Date: 10.03.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through GOK KPPP Only) (3rd Call)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount Put to Tender (Rs.in Lakhs)	EMD (Amount in Rs)	Contract Period
1	**Primary Collection and Secondary Transportation of Municipal solid waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in Sarvagnanagara division (Package-P3) Call-03**	1,751.21	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment mode under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs.16,51,000/-** by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized / Scheduled Bank	84 Months

1) Last date to upload pre-bid queries in kpp portal: **15.03.2026** before **5:30 pm**. 2) Tender Pre Bid meeting: **16.03.2026** at **15:00 hrs** at above mentioned office. 3) Last Date of Receipt of Tender **25.03.2026** before **5:30 pm**. 4) Opening of Technical Bid: **26.04.2026** after **5:30 pm**.

More details can be downloaded from website - **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/6170/CCL/2025-26

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML, Bengaluru

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಕಡಕೊಳ
ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ-570008, ದೂ:0821-2970319, ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: itstaff_ulb_kadala@yahoo.com

ಸಂ:ಪಪಕ/ಶಾ.ಶಾ/ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ/ಸಿ.ಆರ್ 01/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.03.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕಡಕೊಳ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ, ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಚಾಲ್ತಿ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ K.W-1, K.W-2 ಮತ್ತು K.W-3ರ ನಿಯಮಗಳ ಅನ್ವಯ ಮತ್ತು Implementing the Animal Birth Control and Anti Rabies Vaccination Programme for Stray Dogs, ನಮ್ಮ ಕ್ಲೀನಿಕ್‌ಗೆ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಇನ್ನಿತರ ವಸ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಘನತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ವಸ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಘಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲವನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲು 1999 ಹಾಗೂ 2000ರ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷರತ್ತು ಹಾಗೂ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು.

1. ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕಡೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **27.03.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.**
2. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:30.03.2026 ದೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ಮುಂದೆ ಸೂಚಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ. ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
01	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK INDENT54788/CALL-2	90.00	152450
02	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK INDENT54915/CALL-2	52.50	88810
03	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK INDENT54791/CALL-2	85.50	144700
04	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54801/CALL-2 (Cat-IIA)	95.00	80500
05	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK INDENT54802/CALL-2	80.00	135600
06	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54805/CALL-2 (SC)	95.00	80550
07	DMA/2025-26/EL/WORK INDENT55929	14.50	36250
08	DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK INDENT55928	3.50	8750
09	DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK INDENT55889	3.50	8750
10	DMA/2025-26/IND5969	2.22	5560
11	DMA/2025-26/IND5493	1.36	3400
12	DMA/2025-26/SE6991	10.00	25000
13	DMA/2025-26/SE7461	34.32	64640

ಸೂಚನೆ:1. ಕಾರಣಾಂತರಗಳಿಂದ ಮೇಲೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** . ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು

ಸಹಿ/- ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ, ಕಡಕೊಳ

ಪಾಪಂಸಂ/ಮೈಸೂರು/1816/ಟೆದಿ ಸಾಮ/2025-26

ಸಹಿ/- ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ, ಕಡಕೊಳ

KERALA CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRI VALUE CHAIN MODERNISATION PROJECT (KERA)

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Managing Director KINFRA, Project Implementation Unit of Kerala Climate Resilient Agri Value Chain Modernization Project (KERA) of Dept. of Agriculture, Govt. of Kerala (The World Bank Project ID No P-178254), invites Request for Proposals (RFP) from technically & financially sound agencies for the following tender:

1.Tender ID: 2026_KINFR_846034_1

Consultancy Services: Total Consultancy (Engineering & Project Management) for setting up KINFRA Food Park at Mattannur in Kannur District (Ref. No. KINFRA/MTNR/65/2025-26)

Last date of submission of Bid is 09/04/2026, 2:00 PM

The tender Document can be downloaded from Kerala eTender portal (www.etenders.kerala.gov.in), KINFRA website (www.kinfra.org) and KERA website (**https://kera.kerala.gov.in/notifications**) **starting from 10/03/2026, 6:00PM.**

राजस्थान सरकार
कार्यलय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सार्वजनिक विभाग वृत अलवर
सा.नि.वि. परिसर, अशोका टाकीज के पास, कचहरी रोड, अलवर
फोन:- 0144-2737038, E-mail:-Sealw.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in

क्रमांक:- निविदा/अलवर/राजकाज क्रमांक 20884094 दिनांक 05.03.2026

Corrigendum Of Short-Term NIT No 24/2025-26

Bids for Permanent Restoration Work Pratapbandh to karni-mata temple Road Alwar Work under juridaction of Div Alwar are invited from interested bidder up to 05-03-2026 06:00 PM. **Now according to the corrigendum in the public date, its receipt is till 12-03-2026 6:00 pm.** Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **(Http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** and **http://sppp.raj.nic.in** of the state and **http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in** departmental website. The approximate value of the procurements is 495.57/- Laces.

UBN No: - PWD2526WSOB24119
NIB No :- PWD2526A5843

-:E-Sign:-
Superintending Engineer
PWD Circle Alwar

DIPR/C/4993/2026

AHMEDABAD MUNICIPAL TRANSPORT SERVICE
Transport House, Outside Jamalpur gate, Jamalpur, Ahmedabad 380022, Gujarat, India.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) Selection of Consultant for Development of Bus Ports and Multimodal Transport Hubs on Public Private Partnership Mode in Ahmedabad

Ahmedabad Municipal Transport Service (AMTS) invites proposals from duly qualified interested parties for development of Bus Ports and Multimodal Transport Hubs on Public Private Partnership Mode in Ahmedabad. Interested parties may download RFP from website **www.tender.nprocure.com** from **Dt. 10.03.2025.**

Sd/-
Dy. Municipal Commissioner/ Transport Manager

KARNATAKA STATE MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
No.1, Dr. Siddaiah Puranik Road, KHB Colony, Magadi Road, Bangalore-560079.
Phone: +91-80-29619801, Email: md.ksmscl@gmail.com

No: KSMSCL/DRUGS/TND/25-26 AI/PACKAGE-2/4 DRUGS/89/2025-26 Dated: 10.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Ref: 1. Tender Notification No: KSMSCL/DRUGS/TND/25-26 AI/ PACKAGE-2/4 DRUGS/89/2025-26, Dt: 05.03.2026 (IND-0373).

2. GeM Tender Notification No KSMSCL/DRUGS/RETND/PRGM/ NVHCP/GEM/HEPATITIS-B VACCINE/90/2025-26, Dt: 05.03.2026 (GeMBID NO: GEM/2026/B/7317358).

Nationwide Tender is invited through **e-Tendering system** under KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tender:

1. Tender for the procurement and supply of 4 drugs under Package-2 Anti-infective Medicines category for various Health Institutions across Karnataka under Annual Indent 2025-26(IND-0373).
2. Re-tender for the supply of Hepatitis-B Vaccines for NVHCP Programme under NHM (GeM BID NO: GEM/2026/B/7317358).

Details regarding EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information are available in the Tender Document, which can be downloaded from the website **https://gem.gov.in & https://kppp.karnataka.gov.infrom 05.03.2026.** The eligible tenderers shall submit their e-tenders under e-procurement platform for above mentioned tenders. Further information if any may be obtained from this office.

Sd/-
General Manager (Admin & Procurement)
KSMSCL, Bangalore

DIPR/CP/AAA/6147/2025-26

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052.

No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/26/2025-26 Date: 10.03.2026

Invitation for Short Term Tender
(Through GOK KPPP only) (Call-03)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Approx. Amount put to tender (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (Amount in Rs.)	Time of Completion
1	Primary Collection and Secondary Transporation of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in RR Nagara-1 division (Package-30) **Call-03.**	1,633.64	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e- payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs. 15,34,000/-** by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank.	84 Months

1) Last date for uploading Pre-bid Queries :**15.03.2026 before 17:30 hrs. 2)** Tender Pre-Bid meeting: **16.03.2026 at 15:00hrs** at above mentioned office. **3)** Last Date of Receipt of Tender: **25.03.2026 before 17:30 hrs. 4)** Opening of Technical Bid: **26.04.2026 after 17:30 hrs.**

More details can be downloaded from website - **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/JA/6150/2025-26

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMILNADU LIMITED
9th Floor, Sigapi Aachi Building, 18/3, Rukmani Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008. www.elcot.tn.gov.in | +91 44 2855 6100 | aicoe@elcot.in

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - NOTICE
Ref:ELCOT-FPP-AI CoE-2026-002

ELCOT invites "Request for Proposal (RFP) for the participation and collaboration of leading industry partners, academic institutions and technology providers to collaborate in the establishment, operation and long-term scaling of the Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence Centre of Excellence (TN AI CoE) in Chennai and Coimbatore. For further details, please visit **elcot.tn.gov.in** or **tntenders.gov.in**. Pre-bid meeting: **23.03.2026**, 11:30 am. Last date for submission of proposals: **21.04.2026**, 3:00 pm. For queries: aicoe@elcot.in.

DIPR/1705/Tender/2026

MANAGING DIRECTOR

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052

No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/24/2025-26 Date: 10.03.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Only through GOK KPP Portal Only) Call-03

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount Put to Tender per annum (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)	Contract period
1	Primary Collection and Secondary Transportation of Municipal solid waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in Yeshwanthpura-1 division (Package - 28) Call-03	1,457.77	Rs.1,00,000/- **through e payment mode** under of the following i.e., online / RTGS/ NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs 14,00,000/- by bank Guarantee/ FDR issued by Nationalized /scheduled Bank	84 Months

1) Last date to upload pre-bid queries in KPP Portal : **15.03.2026 before 17:30 hrs.** 2) Tender Pre Bid meeting :**16.03.2026 at 15:00 hrs at above mentioned office.** 3) Last Date of Receipt of Tender: **25.03.2026 before 17.30 hrs.** 4) Opening of Technical Bid: **26.04.2026 after 17.30 hrs.**

More details can be downloaded from website - **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/6166/AKAR/2025-26

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML

40L women get ₹9k each under Assam scheme

Better Days If BJP Returns To Office: CM

Prabin.Kalita
@timesofindia.com

Guwahati: The BJP-led govt in Assam transferred Tuesday Rs 9,000 each to the bank accounts of 40 lakh economically disadvantaged women under its flagship direct benefit scheme Orunodoi, making this possibly the last such disbursal before elections are announced.

At the rate of Rs 1,250 a month, the payout covers Jan, Feb, March, and April in advance — plus a special Bihu bonus of Rs 4,000 each.

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, who addressed beneficiaries at an event in Guwahati and used videoconferencing to reach out to gatherings across 3,800 gaon panchayats and autonomous council constituencies, promised "much better days" if BJP received a third successive mandate. He pledged two lakh jobs and free monthly household rations of a kg each of salt, sugar, dal and mustard oil, and 500gm of tea.

Sarma also promised enhanced financial assistance to women under welfare schemes and expanded support for youth entrepreneurs. Pushing back against the charge that the disbursal was election-driven, Sarma said Orunodoi, launched in 2020, predates any poll calendar and is governed by seven eligibility criteria covering widows, women with disabilities, families with cancer patients, divorced women and those in distress.

HAPPY FACE: A woman shows the credited amount under the scheme in Guwahati on Tuesday

"If it were about elections, everyone would have been included. These are not freebies," he said. "We have been doing this for the last six years, and Assam was the first state to introduce direct transfers to women beneficiaries. Our electoral strength comes from PM Modi's stewardship, not from these schemes."

Tuesday's transfer comes over and above payouts under the Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan, under which 28.6 lakh women entrepreneurs have already received Rs 10,000 each as seed capital, as of Feb. Sarma pointed out that the scheme had since been adopted in Bihar, saying it was a factor in NDA's assembly election victory there.

SC grants bail to father of accused minor in Pune Porsche case

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Tuesday granted bail to the father of the minor who was alleged to be driving a Porsche car involved in an accident in Pune last year that left two young software engineers dead. He is accused of tampering with evidence by swapping the blood sample of his son who was allegedly behind the wheel on that fateful night. A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan granted the father relief after noting that other accused in the case have been granted bail. "We have considered the arguments in light of the material on record as well as the fact that in similar cases this court has already granted relief.," the bench said. TNN

Delhi Metro harassment: Court upholds conviction

New Delhi: Upholding the conviction of a man for masturbating next to a woman inside a Delhi Metro coach, a court has also called for stronger measures to ensure the safety of women commuting on the city's public transport system, **reports Koushiki Saha.**

Additional sessions judge Hargurvarinder Singh Jaggi placed the case within the broader context of International Women's Day and the persistent safety concerns faced by women in public spaces. "On March 8th of every year, International Women's Day is celebrated across the globe, to mark and rejoice in the accomplishments of women in different spheres of life, and to create awareness that a lot more is yet to be done to bring in gender equality, opportunity, recognition," he said.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj
International Airport, Mumbai
1st floor, Terminal 1, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Santacruz (E), Mumbai - 400 099.

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN BIDDING PROCESS FOR NON-AERO CONCESSIONS AT CSMI AIRPORT

Mumbai International Airport Limited (**"MIAL"**) invites parties to participate in the competitive bidding process for **Passenger Services** Concessions at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport ("CSMIA"), Mumbai.

Parties are requested to visit the website:
(https://csmia.adaniairports.com/ → Business → Tenders) to download the application form for purchase of RFP documents

Please check the website for the deadline for submission of Application.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Tender Notice No. 39-CWM-UBLS-2025-26 Dated : 03-03-2026

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Comprehensive Annual Maintenance contract for Roller Bearing Cleaning Plant make : M/s. Ultra Max Hydro jet Pvt Ltd. Chennai of Wheel Shop including concomitant accessories for a period of 05 Years at CRWS. Hubballi through open tender.	Rs. 32,93,104/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 24-03-2026**

Tender Notice No. 41-CWM-UBLS-2025-26 Dated : 03-03-2026

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Implementation of Statutory mandates related to safety as per Factory act 1948 and ISO 45001:2008 at Carriage Repair Workshop Hubballi.	Rs. 23,12,800/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 24-03-2026**

Tender Notice No. 42-CWM-UBLS-2025-26 Dated : 03-03-2026

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for "Coil Spring Scragging and Load Deflection Testing Machine" of Make : ASCO RAIL for the period 05 years.	Rs. 18,88,000/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:30 Hrs on 25-03-2026**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date

Deputy Chief Workshop Manager
PUB/978/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26 Hubballi

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S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

e-Tenders against open tenders are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), S.E.Railway, Chakradharpur for & on behalf of the President of India for the following works. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Sl. No. & Tender Notice No.; Name of work; Tender value; EMD: (1) CKP-WEST-25-26-Fencing, dated 10.03.2026;** Provision of rail fencing to prevent elephant from crossing railway track between (i) Bondamunda A cabin to D cabin and Bondamunda A cabin to P cabin (4.25 Tkm), (ii) Sonakhan-Sogra (5.0 TKm) & (iii) Bagdehi-Dhutra (4.32 TKm) under the jurisdiction of Sr Divisional Engineer (West)/ Chakradharpur; ₹ 15,47,79,135.55; ₹ 9,23,900/- **(2) CKP-CENTRAL-25-26-68, dated 10.03.2026;** Proper Water Supply Arrangement at Sonua, Lotapahar, Tunia and Barabamboo Station under MEA for passengers and Civil Engg Work in connection with Provision of one elevator at New DRM Office Building at Chakrdharpur; ₹ 2,13,80,067.22; ₹ 2,56,900/-. **Cost of Tender Form :** 0.00 for both. **Date of Opening :** 30.03.2026 for sl. no. 1 and 07.04.2026 for sl. no. 2. The tender can be viewed at website **http://www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered under on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/ bidder can participate on e-tendering. **Note:** e-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. (Authority–Railway Board's letter No. 2020/CE-I/CT/3E/GCC/ Policy dtd. 16.07.2020). **(PR-1284)**

Visvesvaraya Technological University
"Jnana Sangama"
Belagavi-590018, Karnataka, India

Ref. No. VTU/BGM/RE/HK/MP/SECU/ 2025-26/IFT No.147/1057
Date: 9th March 2026

Short Term Tender Notification - Two Cover System
(KPP Portal Only) 2nd Call

As per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act-1999 & Rule 2000, The Registrar, V.T.U., Belagavi invite tenders through KPP Portal basis from eligible tenderers, registered in Labour Department & other concerned department for the following works of; 1) Providing Man Power Services through Outsource Agencies at VTU Regional Centres Bengaluru, Mysuru, Kalaburagi, Extension Centre, Mangaluru, NASD., Dandeli, Talkal, Chintamani, Gokak & P.G. Centre of VIAT., Muddenahalli amounting to **Rs. 2,91,06,197/-** (Excluding GST) (2nd Call) 2) Providing House Keeping Services through Outsource Agencies at VTU Regional Centres of Bengaluru, Mysuru, Kalaburagi, Extension Centre, Mangaluru, P.G. Centre, VIAT., Muddenahalli., NASD., Dandeli, Skill Development Centre, Talkal, Gokak, Chintamani & Choranahalli amounting to **Rs. 3,69,54,820/-** (Excluding GST) (2nd Call) 3) Providing Man Power Services through Outsource Agencies to Examination Scanning Centre at VTU, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi & VTU Regional Centre, Bengaluru amounting to **Rs. 2,84,93,044/-** (Excluding GST) (2nd Call). Other details log on to website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on **10-03-2026.**

DIPR/BELAGAVI/2040/
2025-26/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

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Building antifragile careers

Embrace Challenges, Be Flexible To Evolve Amid Testing Times

By Saundarya Rajesh

When the African elephants in Mozambique were subjected to intense poaching during the civil war, something incredible happened: female elephants evolved to be born without tusks. These tuskless herds became notably more vigilant and cohesive, emerging stronger as a collective.

Or take Kintsugi—the Japanese practice of repairing fractured pottery with gold. The object elevated thus becomes far more valuable, despite the inherent structural damage caused to it.

This applies to people as well. In his book, Antifragile, Nassim Nicholas Taleb distinguishes three categories of systems: fragile systems that break under stress; resilient systems that recover to their prior state; and antifragile systems that improve through volatility, disorder, and pressure. Thus, antifragility is that response to adversity which creates magnificent strength, even more precious than before.

This concept is particularly relevant for the careers of Indian women professionals. A woman professional faces substantial headwinds today. She faces persistent tensions as she balances demanding careers with family responsibilities amid an age of information overload. She is at the vulnerable frontline of rapid advancements in artificial intelligence. ILO research indicates that women face nearly three times the risk than men in jobs highly exposed to AI-driven automation, particularly in clerical and administrative functions.

When we apply the concept of antifragility to career trajectories, we reframe workplace uncertainty not as a setback but as an opening to multiple pathways for advancement. Antifragility does not merely endure adversity; it helps your career emerge markedly enhanced. It urges you to leverage stressors to build greater strength rather than merely seek resilience.

Antifragility demands more than mindset adjustment; it requires deliberate, actionable practices:

1. Embrace continuous experimentation. Sustained career growth in a rapidly evolving workplace requires

Ram

an attitude of continuous experimentation and a willingness to start again, regardless of your background or seniority. For instance, learning to code regardless of your background signals intellectual agility and the courage to stretch beyond traditional boundaries. This openness strengthens your long term employability.

2. Deliberately accept calibrated doses of discomfort. Growth rarely happens in familiar spaces. By taking on challenges such as public speaking despite shyness or leading a meeting even when it feels intimidating, you gradually expand your emotional and professional capacity. Each stretch builds confidence and increases your tolerance for complexity.

3. Diversify your capabilities to create irreplaceable value. Diversifying your capabilities further enhances your value. When you add skills beyond your core function, such as acquiring sales acumen even if you specialise in technology—you position yourself as a multidimensional contributor.

4. Emphasise high-order human skills. Build strategic judgment and ethical discernment. These are critical in emerging domains (AI ethics, organisational transformation) and enduring fields (such as counselling, leadership development).

5. Actively invest in personal brand development through expansive, diverse networks and consistent visibility. A wide network expands opportunities, while regular presence in conversations, forums, and platforms reinforces credibility, trust, and influence, helping individuals stand out in competitive professional environments.

(The writer is Managing Director, Avtar Career Creators)

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2(105)/R&P/Rect.-ED, CGM, GM-2025 Dated: 09.03.2026

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DGM (HR)

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Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Agra
(Formerly Agra University, Agra)

Advertisement No: DBRAU/RW/2026/A26- A27 Date: 28-02-2026

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

In continuation of Advertisement No. DBRAU/RW/2026/ A01-A25 dated 20.01.2026, online applications are invited in the prescribed format for filling regular posts of Assistant Professor in the subjects of **Zoology and Physics** at the University. The last date for submission of the online application form is **17.04.2026.** A printout of the duly filled online application form, along with the annexure, must reach the office of the Registrar by registered post on or before **27.04.2026** up to 05:00 PM. For online application, please visit the University Samarth Portal **https://dbraurec.samarth.edu.in** Further information is available on the University website **http://www.dbrau.ac.in/** Applicants are advised to apply before the last date. **Registrar**

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   b) Chartered/Cost Accountant/MBA (Finance) or
   c) Post graduation in any discipline
   d)The person should have a combined experience of at least eight years at the Middle/senior management level in the banking sector (including the experience gained in the concerned UCB) or non-banking finance companies engaged in lending (loan companies) and asset financing.
   e) Knowledge of Kannada Language speaking & writing
   f) The tenure of GM shall not be for a period more than five years at a time subject to a Minimum period of Three years at time of first appointment
5. **Salary:** Shall be commensurate with experience and qualification. However the Candidate may indicate expected salary
6. **Submission of Application** should be submitted on white paper along with recent passport size photo and necessary documents of qualification and experience in duplicate (self attested to **Chairman of NRC Shri Shiddeshwar Co-Operative Bank Ltd. administrative Office. Shri Shiddeshwar Road Vijayapur-586101 Karnataka.)**
7. **Last Date of receiving application:** Application should reach by us on or before **Date 20/03/2026.**
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Air India to levy fuel surcharge on tickets

New Delhi: Airfares are set to rise with Air India and Air India Express deciding to levy a fuel surcharge of Rs 399 on each domestic flight ticket from March 12 and also hike the charge for international bookings due to a steep rise in jet fuel prices amid the Middle East conflict. The new fuel surcharges will be implemented in a phased manner.

Regretting the need for fuel surcharges, Air India on Tuesday said that without such surcharges, "it is likely that some flights would be unable to cover operating costs and would have to be cancelled". In the first phase, a fuel surcharge of Rs 399 per domestic flight ticket would be imposed from March 12, and the same will also be applicable for SAARC flights, a statement said on Tuesday. For West Asia flights, the fuel surcharge will be USD 10 and hiked by USD 30 to USD 90 for Africa flights and by USD 20 to USD 60 for Southeast Asia services. All these changes will be effective from March 12, including for flights to and from Singapore.

In the second phase, Air India will increase the fuel surcharge by USD 25 to USD 50 for flights to Europe, North America and Australia starting from March 18. PTI

How AI may have handed Iran proxies a map to critical US infra

Default Credentials Fuel Attacks

CloudSEK warns Iranian-aligned hacktivists exploit AI to target US industrial systems, bypassing technical expertise and accelerating attacks

Chethan.Kumar
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: When the US and Israel struck Iran on Feb 28, more than 50 hacktivist groups aligned with Iranian interests assembled on Telegram within hours. Most had no background in industrial control systems and no direction from Tehran. What they had was an internet connection and an AI tool.

That combination — motivated actors, accessible AI, and an expanding attack surface — is the central argument of a new report from cybersecurity firm CloudSEK, which warns that artificial intelligence has lowered the barrier to attacking critical infrastructure so dramatically that technical expertise is no longer a prerequisite.

CloudSEK's lead researcher Ibrahim Saify told **TOI** the team began by mapping groups targeting industrial control systems — the energy grids, water plants, and traffic networks that underpin national life. One group kept surfacing: CyberAv3ngers.

"Not all threat actor groups have a very complex TTP (tactics, techniques and procedures) or are technically sophisticated, yet they were using AI Large Language Models for their reconnaissance phase," Saify said.

The report charts how Iranian cyber operations evolved over a decade. In 2012, the Shamoon wiper destroyed 30,000 endpoints at Saudi Aramco — an operation requiring nation-state resources and industrial expertise. In 2017, the TRITON malware targeted safety systems at a Saudi petrochemical plant, the only malware confirmed to attack industrial safety systems. Both required years of capability-building.

By late 2023, the pattern had shifted. CyberAv3ngers breached the Municipal Water Authority of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, using the default password "1111" — a credential listed in device manuals and flagged in prior advisories by the US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). The agency later confirmed breaches in 75 or more US industrial control system devices.

In Oct 2024, OpenAI disclosed that CyberAv3ngers accounts had used ChatGPT during reconnaissance, querying default credentials for industrial routers, methods to scan for control system devices, and ways to conceal post-compromise tools. OpenAI said the responses offered little beyond a standard web search. CloudSEK's researchers argue the point lies elsewhere.

"The significance is not that AI created new attack capabilities," the report states. "It is that AI eliminated the research phase."

A single AI session can now produce the right search query to locate exposed devices, confirm default credentials, and explain unfamiliar protocols, compressing weeks of background work into minutes.

To demonstrate this, CloudSEK replicated the approach. Using AI-generated queries on Shodan, a search engine for internet-connected devices, researchers located live industrial systems in the US. One query returned a Siemens SIMATIC device operating in run mode unlocked, and with accessible management pages. Another identified a Schneider Electric power meter with an unauthenticated interface — open to anyone.

The conflict has triggered the largest single mobilisation of Iranian-aligned cyber actors on record, according to Palo Alto's Unit 42. APT33, known for targeting US energy firms, and APT34, believed to be pre-positioning in energy and finance networks — sit at the top of the hierarchy.

LPG shortage forces Chennai eateries to shut

▸ Continued from page 1

In Chennai, several small eateries have shut shop, Ravi Muthukrishnan, chairman of Vasanta Bhavan Hotels and president of Channel Hotels Association told **TOI**. Some of them said they are running low on cylinders and are grappling with delayed delivery of replacements.

From Chinese to biryani, a lot of items at these eateries require slow cooking which means higher gas consumption. Gas agencies, which supply cylinders, have said they do not have enough stock of commercial gas cylinders. "LPG cylinders have not been available since the past two days," said Muthukrishnan. Restaurants that had moved to piped gas have been spared so far.

Companies fear that dwindling business will put pressure on cash flows at a time when final advance tax payments and liquor licence renewals are due. "We are assessing all possible options to keep the business afloat. Our rents won't be waived; salaries, final advance tax payments and liquor licence renewals need to be done. Restaurants operate on the basis of monthly cash flows," said Pawan Shahri, co-founder at Mumbai-based Chrome Asia Hospitality, which owns brands such as Gigi and Donna Deli.

Debaditya Chaudhury, MD of Chowman said its restaurants in Mumbai and Bengaluru are already facing supply challenges. This is a concern for restaurant operations, which rely heavily on commercial LPG for daily kitchen functioning, said Chaudhury, adding that the firm will look at restricting certain items on the menu if the problem escalates.

Restaurateur Pranav Rungta who runs outlets in Mumbai said his Colaba eatery Otoki has stopped non-essential cooking through LPG cylinders. Bulk rice cooking and meals for staff have all moved to electric cookers, said Rungta.

Govt explores other routes to import LNG

▸ Continued from page 1

The notification added that the gas required to meet the needs of the priority sectors will be met through full or partial curtailment of gas supplied to petrochemical facilities and power plants, and by reducing gas allocation to refineries to 65% of their requirement.

India imports nearly half of its natural gas requirements of around 190 million standard cubic metres per day (mscmd). More than 50% of the imported LNG comes from Qatar and the UAE through the Strait of Hormuz, which has effectively remained closed to vessel movement for nearly 10 days now. Officials said govt is in talks with several countries to import LNG through other routes, while refiners have also made spot purchases to meet their requirements.

Ministries have held stakeholder consultations and are holding meetings to address concerns.

Rahul undermining dignity of Parl: Rijiju

▸ Continued from page 1

NDA speakers kept up the attack even as members belonging to the INDIA bloc justified the move against the Speaker and accused him of gagging the opposition at the govt's instance. While DMK's TR Baalu called him a "gentleman" who had suspended so many opposition MPs, TMC's Mahua Moitra called the motion a divine retribution for the speaker for "wrongly" expelling her in 2023. His karma has caught up with him, she said. Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Arvind Sawant said Birla was under pressure to act against the opposition.

Rijiju accused Rahul of undermining the dignity of Parliament with his "antics". He tried to forcibly hug the PM. "What kind of LoP does that?" he asked.

Other speakers from the treasury benches, including JDU's Rajiv Ranjan, Shiv Sena's Shrikant Shinde and TDP's Lavu Srikrishna Devarayalu, highlighted Rahul's frequent absence from key debates in the House and accused him of undermining national interests by questioning sacrifices of the armed forces. Shinde called him a "leader of vacation and not the leader of the opposition." NDA MPs praised Birla for giving chances to first-time MPs and helping LS register record productivity during his tenure.

Congress disrupted the minister when he referred to the LoP's meet with the Chinese ambassador when the two countries were engaged in a tense standoff in Doklam.

Oppn questions Speaker's conduct

▸ Continued from page 1

While TMC MP Saugata Roy asserted parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijiju should move a motion to appoint a presiding officer specifically for the purpose — the resolution to remove Birla issue — Rijiju said Owaisi's claim was irrelevant as Pal was competent to preside over LS proceedings when the resolution is taken up.

Pal then put to vote the notice to move the resolution and asked at least 50 MPs to stand up in support of the resolution. Once the required number of members stood up, the notice was accepted and Jawed read out the resolution, which was also admitted for discussion.

During the discussion, Gogoi raised questions over the manner in which Speaker Birla presided over the House last month when Rahul had to speak on the motion of thanks to the President's address. "There was an expectation that the Chair would be neutral. But research of uncorrected versions would show the number of times the LoP was interrupted. While the LoP was on his feet, another member was called upon (to speak)," he said.

"Is this parliamentary tradition we want to show? Microphones are being used to silence MPs. It stands in direct contradiction with the rituals of this House," Gogoi said while pointing out how the mic of his party colleague Shashi Tharoor was allegedly switched off in the middle of his speech on Feb 9.

K'taka HC seeks Centre reply on X Corp appeal

Bengaluru: Karnataka high court Tuesday sought the Union govt's response to a writ appeal filed by X Corp challenging a single bench order dismissing its plea against content blocking through Sahyog portal, **reports P Vasantha Kumar**.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Poonacha issued a notice and posted the matter for hearing on June 11. X Corp contended that section 79(3)(b) of the IT Act-2000 does not confer the authority on govt officials to issue information blocking orders through the Sahyog portal. Such orders can only be issued under section 69A of the IT Act, read with the IT (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009 (Blocking Rules), it asserted. TNN

QR code prank in exam sparks memes

▸ Continued from page 1

Some students claimed the same happened with certain sets of applied mathematics papers too. It remains unclear, however, whether other versions of the exam papers carried QR codes that directed to the same link or to other unrelated links.

Meanwhile, the "Rickroll" sparked a wave of memes on social media. Many students posted videos of themselves scanning the QR code, showing that it redirected them to the clip. "Not sure if it's an error or the best troll in Board exam history," wrote one social media user.

Not everyone found the incident amusing. On several education forums, students questioned how such a link could appear on an official examination document. "Is this some kind of joke? Our futures depend on these exams. How can something like this appear on an official question paper?" a student wrote. Another user posted: "In today's episode of how serious our examination conducting authorities are, presenting to you the CBSE Class XII Board mathematics paper with a QR code that opens a rickroll song on YouTube."

In a statement, CBSE said, "Many security features are provided on the question papers. These include QR codes to verify the genuineness of the question paper in case of suspected security breach. On March 9, 2026, examination of Mathematics was conducted for class 12. In a few question paper sets, it appears that when one of the given QR codes is scanned, it links to a YouTube video."

It added, "It appears that this has raised concerns about the veracity of the question papers amongst concerned students and their parents. It is hereby confirmed by the Board that the question papers are genuine. The security of the question papers remains uncompromised."

Officials: Cooking gas supply to households is being prioritised

▸ Continued from page 1

In a war situation, there is a choice between domestic and commercial consumers; the govt's priority has to be domestic consumers," said an official.

Dismissing the complaints of shortage as "rumours", officials added that nearly 60 lakh commercial and domestic cylinders were being distributed every day, as before, and no domestic LPG distributorship was running dry in the country. They added that cooking gas cylinders were being delivered within the mandated delivery time of two-and-a-half days, though deliveries were normally made within a day in the pre-conflict period.

India has over 33.3 crore domestic LPG consumers. Officials said cooking gas supply to households was being prioritised over commercial consumers to ensure there was no shortage.

TIMES ascent
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NTPC Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

Special Recruitment Drive for Artisan Trainees - exclusively reserved for Land Oustees of NTPC Kudgi, Vijayapura

NTPC Limited is India's largest integrated energy company with an installed capacity of 86,440 MW. Commensurate with our country's growth challenges, NTPC has embarked upon an ambitious plan to attain a total installed capacity of 130 GW by 2032.

NTPC is launching a Special Recruitment Drive for eligible **land oustees of NTPC Kudgi Super Thermal Power Station as per the details given below:**

Details of Vacancy:

Post	Category wise Vacancies					
	SC	ST	OBC (NCL)	EWS	UR	Total
Artisan Trainee (Fitter)	2	1	2	1	7	13
Artisan Trainee (Instrument Mechanic)	0	0	1	0	5	6
Assistant Trainee (Material/Storekeepers)	0	0	2	0	6	8
	2	1	5	1	18	27

Qualification:

Artisan Trainee (Fitter)	Xth pass + full time regular ITI in Fitter trade
Artisan Trainee (Instrument Mechanic)	Xth pass + full time regular ITI in Instrument Mechanics / Electronics trade
Assistant (Material/Storekeeper) Trainee	Full time regular course in NCTVT (Storekeeping)/ (Xth Pass + ITI (Fitter/ Electrician/ Electronics/ Instrument Mech.)) + English Typing 30WPM/ 150 keystrokes per minute

Training, Emoluments and Placement:

Selected candidates will undergo training for a period of two years and will be paid a consolidated stipend of Rs. 21,500/- per month. After successful completion of the training, the candidates will be absorbed in the Company's open pay scale of W3 grade with a starting basic pay of Rs. 21,500/-.

Eligibility Criteria & Relaxation:

Only land oustees of NTPC Kudgi are eligible to apply against the above posts. The maximum age for applying for the above posts for general category candidates shall be 40 yrs.

For other detailed Eligibility criteria, Selection Process, health standards, test centers, reservation and relaxations for SC/ST/PwBD/XSM and other information regarding General Conditions, please refer to the detailed advertisement on our website **careers.ntpc.co.in**

How to Apply:

1. Eligible candidates shall submit their application through online portal- **careers.ntpc.co.in** only. No manual/paper application will be entertained.
2. There is no application fee for this post.

Note: Recent self-photograph and signature are required to be uploaded while applying for the post online.

To apply visit **careers.ntpc.co.in** with your valid e-mail ID. The application portal shall be functional from 10:00 am of 16.03.2026 to 11.04.2026 till 11.59 pm.

Helpdesk Details: Contact No.: +91 8426274133
Email ID: recruitment_kudgi@ntpc.co.in

Kudgi Super Thermal Power Station
Human Resources Department
Advertisement Number: Kudgi/01/2026

Leading the Power Sector

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(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
(Schedule 'A' Company under the Ministry of Defence)
Regd. Office : BEML Soudha, 23/1, 4th Main, Sampangirama Nagar, Bengaluru-560 027, INDIA

BEML Limited, India's leading multi-technology company under the Ministry of Defence has successfully spearheaded with its realm of producing world-class products over the last six decades, in the core sectors - Defence & Aerospace, Rail, Power, Mining & Construction. BEML invites result-oriented aspirants to partner in its journey towards excellence.

Sl No	Position	No of Vacancy	Advt. No
1	ED (Gr X) / CGM (Gr IX) for FPI&IC	1	KP/S/02/2026 Dt.11.03.2026
2	AGM (Gr-VI) for Maritime Business	1	
3	Engineer (Gr II) / Asst Manager (Gr III) & Manager (Gr IV) for SBU Aerospace	6	
4	Engineer (Gr II) for Sustenance (Rail & Metro)	5	

Motivated & Result oriented professionals seeking challenging roles may please visit the career page on BEML website **"www.bemlindia.in"** for detailed advertisement and application process.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT CALCUTTA
Applications are invited for the below mentioned positions:

Sl. No.	Post	No. of Post	Level in the Pay Matrix / Consolidated emoluments
1	Chief Administrative Officer on regular pay scale through Direct Recruitment (under UR Category)	01 (One)	In Level-13A (Rs.131100-216600) of Pay Matrix under 7th CPC (Pre-Revised PB-4: GP-8900 under 6th CPC) along with other admissible allowances and benefits as per Institute's rules.
2	Executive Engineer on regular pay scale through Direct Recruitment (under UR Category)	01 (One)	In Level-11 (Rs.67700-208700) of Pay Matrix under 7th CPC (Pre-Revised PB-3: GP-6600 under 6th CPC) along with other admissible allowances and benefits as per Institute's rules.
3	Security Officer on contract under Institute's payroll	01 (One)	The initial consolidated emoluments would be Rs.75,000/- (negotiable) per month along with other admissible allowances and benefits as per Institute's rules.

The last date for receiving the applications is 9th April, 2026. Interested candidates may visit the IIMC's website www.iimcal.ac.in for necessary details. The candidates may also visit Naukri.com, Timesjobs.com, NCS portal, MHRD portal (only for Sl.No.1), Institute's social media platforms such as Facebook, X, LinkedIn, Instagram for the details.

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(CIN : L23201DL1998PLC097614)
IGL Bhawan, Plot No. 4, Community Centre, Sector 9, R K Puram, New Delhi – 110022

NOTICE

No. (06/2025/1)-C Dated: 11.03.2026

Cancellation of Advt. No. - 06/2025/1
Recruitment of various position(s) on regular basis

It is hereby notified for information of all concerned that the **recruitment process for various position(s) advertised on regular basis,** vide Advertisement No. – **06/2025/1** dated **25.06.2025** stands **cancelled** due to administrative reasons.

Accordingly, all applications received in response to the above advertisement shall be treated as **null and void.** Any inconvenience caused is deeply regretted.

Please refer to careers section of IGL website. **www.iglonline.net**

HAR EK KAAM DESH KE NAAM

Bharat Electronics Limited, a Navaratna Company and India's premier professional electronics Company under the Ministry of Defence requires the following Professionals for its Bangalore Complex:

Post / Grade	Qualification	Post Qualification Experience as on 31.03.2026	No. of posts
Posts on Permanent Basis:			
Assistant Manager (Legal) / E-II	Bachelor's Degree in Law (LLB / BL) from recognized Indian University. Candidates with LLM will be preferred	4 to 7 years of relevant experience	01
Deputy Manager (Legal) / E-IV	Bachelor's Degree in Law (LLB / BL) from recognized Indian University. Candidates with LLM will be preferred	8 to 9 years of relevant experience	
Posts on Fixed Tenure Basis (5 years of Tenure):			
Deputy Engineer / (C-II)	B.E./ B. Tech./B.Sc. Engg. in Civil	Nil	28
	B. Arch	Nil	04
	M.Sc. (Horticulture)	Nil	03

For detailed advertisement and for application details please visit the 'Careers' section of our website www.bel-india.in

'Har Ek Kaam Desh Ke Naam'

राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, पटना
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, PATNA
(शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन एक राष्ट्रीय महत्व का संस्थान)
(An Institute of National Importance under Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)
अशोक राज पथ, पटना- 800005 (बिहार)
ASHOK RAJPATH, PATNA-800005 (BIHAR)

RECRUITMENT FOR NON-TEACHING POSITION AT NIT PATNA

Online applications are invited from Indian nationals for the posts of **Assistant Registrar, Assistant Librarian, Technical Assistant, Superintendent, Technician, Junior Assistant and Professor of Practice at NIT Patna.** For detailed information, please visit Institute website: **www.nitp.ac.in**

Advt. No. NITP/Rect/01-06/2026 Registrar

राष्ट्रीय डिज़ाइन संस्थान
National Institute of Design
मध्यप्रदेश Madhya Pradesh
National Institute of Design, Madhya Pradesh
(An autonomous Institute of National Importance under DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. Of India)

Advt. no. NIDMP/1-70/ (21) Rectt. -Faculty/2026 Dated 01.03.2026
Advt. no. NIDMP/1-70/ (22) Rectt. -Admin/2026 Dated 01.03.2026

RECRUITMENT FOR VARIOUS FACULTY & ADMINISTRATIVE POSTS AT NID MP

National Institute of Design, Madhya Pradesh (NID MP) invites offline application from eligible candidates for filling up various Faculty posts on Direct recruitment basis and various administrative posts on deputation / contract basis. For detailed information regarding the offline application, educational qualifications, experience etc., please visit the Institute website: **https://nidmp.ac.in.** Last date of receipt of offline applications at NID MP is **30.04.2026.** Any addendum, corrigendum, extension of dates etc. shall be notified on the NID MP website only.

Chief Administrative Officer (Offg)

More than 10L voter claim applications cleared: SC

▸ Continued from page 1

The SC gave a free hand to Calcutta HC chief justice to nominate the former CJ and judges and directed EC to notify the tribunal in consultation with the HC CJ and the retired CJ.

The CJI-led bench took exception to a raft of applications of TMC supporters and private persons relating to SIR work and process, dismissed the applications, and warned of contempt action if such attempts are made in future.

The bench was unhappy also over delay in creation of secure IDs for the judicial officers by the EC and said, "A stage has come where we have doubts about the bona fides of both the state govt and the EC." It asked the EC to ensure that there was no delay in creating the IDs for the judicial officers to allow them to work without any delay.

The CJI said the Calcutta HC CJ had informed the SC that more than 500 judicial officers from West Bengal and 200 more from Jharkhand and Odisha had been working seven days a week and have disposed of more than 10 lakh claim applications.

At the commencement of hearing, senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy attempted to press for the applications in absence of an appellate forum for voters whose claims have been rejected by judicial officers. The bench said, "As CJI, I will not permit anyone to dare question the work of the judicial officers. I am issuing a warning."

It was senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee who said when 10 lakh claims have been decided, why the EC is not publishing the supplementary voter list, as was directed by the SC, containing the names of those whose claims have been accepted?

Doc: Brainstem reflexes of Vineeta were found absent

▸ Continued from page 1

Kuldeep then rushed her to Neurocity Hospital in Pilibhit. There, after undergoing critical medical care, she returned home on Monday, "conquering her death," Kuldeep said, adding, "she is now not just awake, but talking to us..."

Dr Rakesh Singh, neurosurgeon at Neurocity Hospital, went through a thorough inquiry procedure about the patient's physical condition and medical diagnosis from his counterparts at the Bareilly hospital before starting her meticulous treatment.

Based on the medical information, Singh told **TOI** that the brainstem reflexes of Vineeta were found absent in the Bareilly-based hospital, while her Glasgow Coma Scale dropped to three points against the normal level of 15 points, indicating complete unresponsiveness.

"The examination of her eyes showed mydriasis (dilation of pupils), indicating the death of her brain and constantly sinking signs of life in her. During a series of quick medical tests, heavy neurotoxins were detected in her bloodstream and lymphatic system. The diagnosis and consequent treatment helped remarkably in her recovery," the neurosurgeon further said.

According to her family, Vineeta, who was a senior assistant in the copy section at judicial courts in Pilibhit, suddenly fainted on the evening of Feb 22 while managing her household work. Her family took her to Autonomous State Medical College in Pilibhit, from where doctors referred her to an advanced medical facility in Bareilly. She was discharged from there on Feb 24 after doctors found her "brain-dead".

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India
(Set up by an Act of Parliament)

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) is a statutory body set up in 1949 by an Act of Parliament for regulation and development of the profession of Chartered Accountancy in India. With a legacy of 77 years, ICAI stands recognized as the world's largest professional accounting body, shaping the future of the profession through leadership, vision, and an unwavering focus on advancement.

Applications are invited from skilled and committed professionals for the following positions at ICAI in varied functional areas contributing to the Institute's vision and growth

DEPUTY SECRETARY: Pay Level – 12 (₹ 21.23 lakh p.a.)
[Minimum 12 years of Post-Qualification Experience]

Qualification	No. of Vacancies
Infrastructure Bachelor's Degree in Engineering/Technology in Civil Engineering or Bachelor's degree in Architecture.	1
ERP Bachelor's Degree in Engineering/Technology in Computer Science or Information Technology.	1
ASSISTANT SECRETARY : Pay Level – 11 (₹ 18.43 lakh p.a.) [Minimum 7 years of Post-Qualification Experience]	
CA Chartered Accountant	25
Legal Bachelor's degree in Law from a recognized University.	3
CS Company Secretary	1
Economics Ph.D. in Economics	1
Sustainability Full – Time Masters in Sustainability Management/Environmental Management or M.Tech in Environmental Engineering. Ph.D preferable. (Executive MBAs will not be accepted).	2
Human Resources Full – Time Masters in Business Administration in Human Resources or equivalent from a recognized University or Institute. (Executive MBAs will not be accepted).	3
Information Technology Bachelor's Degree in Engineering/Technology in Computer Science or Information Technology.	2
Media Management Full – Time Masters in Business Administration in Media Management (Executive MBAs will not be accepted) or Masters degree in Mass Communication.	1
SECTION OFFICER : Pay Level - 8 (₹ 12.68 lakh p.a.) [Minimum 5 years of Post-Qualification Experience]	
General Masters in Business Administration in Marketing/ Travel & Tourism/HR/Finance/IT/Media Management or Masters degree in Travel & Tourism Management / Computer Applications /Mass Communication. Proficiency in written & spoken English is required.	22
Infrastructure Diploma in Mechanical/Civil/Electrical Engineering (duly recognized by AICTE / State Board of Technical Education). Proficiency in written & spoken English is required.	2
ASSISTANT : Pay Level - 7 (₹ 12 lakh p.a.) [Minimum 3 years of Post-Qualification Experience]	
Masters in Business Administration in Marketing/ Travel & Tourism/ Media Management or Masters degree in Travel & Tourism Management / Mass Communication. Proficiency in written and spoken English is required.	10

To apply, refer the detailed advertisement on ICAI career page - https://www.icai.org/post/career-in-icai
Last Date for Submission of Applications: 25th March, 2026.

JAYPEE | IGNITED MINDS INSPIRED SOULS
JAYPEE INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (JIIT)
(Deemed to be University)
A-10, Sector 62, Noida, Gautam Buddh Nagar – 201 309 (U.P.)

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We are a "Deemed to be University" with missionary objective of providing service to the society through quality education for over 25 years with alumni base of 36,000 students across the globe.

Jaypee Institute of Information Technology (JIIT) is known to be amongst the top Engineering Universities in the private sector, not only in northern India but across the nation.

Today, our university functions through its two campuses in NCR and offers well-acclaimed Graduate & Post Graduate Programmes in Computer Science Engineering (CSE), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE), Biotechnology, BBA, MBA, BCA & MCA as well as on-line MBA and BBA Courses through our CDOE (Centre for Distance and Online Education) in a comprehensive manner.

We believe that to keep pace with the fast-unfolding technology scenario, Academics and Industry need to collaborate and cooperate to enable both domains to function in a complementary manner, leveraging the strengths of both.

The University takes pride in its committed and talented base of academicians who have kept the flag high amongst the peer group. With the advent of AI and GoI's push in this fast-emerging technology domain, we are embarking on various initiatives such as developing high-end labs commensurate with emerging fields like Robotics & Humanoids, Drone technology, and AI intervention in various fields, the impact of which is under various stages of development. Therefore, we invite professionals from the industrial domain to be part of our growth story.

CODE 001 – CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER (CTO)

CTO to bring industrial knowledge in the fields of Robotics, AI and other emerging technologies to get the best out of academic paraphernalia and formulate new programmes (Short programmes / Online programmes/Blended programmes) so that working professionals can upgrade their skills where our university can play a decisive role in giving necessary skill upgradation and international intervention in the education sector.

CODE 002 – CHIEF PLACEMENT & CORPORATE RELATIONS OFFICER

Chief Placement & Corporate Relations Officer to lead strategic industry engagement for next-gen talent while forging enduring partnerships with corporates in different fields.

Drive placements & industry internships across cutting-edge domains including Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Data Science, Cyber Security, Cloud Computing, Blockchain, IoT, AR/VR, Robotics, FinTech, and Digital Transformation.

Build impactful corporate alliances, foster innovation-driven recruitment ecosystems, and position JIIT graduates at the forefront of Industry 4.0 and emerging technologies. There would be an annual intake of 4,000 students in the near future, therefore, the incumbent will lead the initiative with corporates in different fields. University takes pride in its placement credentials of 90%+ and we hope to maintain our momentum.

CODE 003 – CHIEF HR OFFICER

JIIT has over 400 faculty and over 1,000 in all institutions under Jaypee Edusphere, Chief HR Officer is expected to play a very important role in managing various aspects of it's human resources and talent pipeline.

Lead a future ready people strategy in an innovation driven academic eco-system. Drive HR transformation leveraging AI-enabled talent analytics, HR automation, digital performance management work force analytics, e-learning platforms and hybrid workplace models.

He would champion a culture of agility, inclusion, research excellence, and digital-first governance aligned with emerging technologies such as AI, Data Science, Cyber Security, Computing and Industry 4.0.

CODE 004 – CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER (CMO)

CMO to lead its strategic marketing, branding, and outreach initiatives.

The CMO will drive admissions growth, industry partnerships, digital marketing, and national/international visibility of the institute, within India and selected global geographies.

The role demands a visionary leader with proven experience in higher education marketing, brand building, and stakeholder engagement.

Eligibility Criteria(s)

(I) For CTO (Code 001), candidates with a Doctorate degree in Computer Science or Electronics & Communication Engineering, and at least three years of exposure as Dean, may apply. The incumbent should be in the age group of 40-45 years, well-versed and exposed to emerging technologies.

(ii) For other positions, the incumbents must be at least engineering graduates with MBA from a reputed institution and with work experience in FMCG/Industrial sector. He/she should be in the age group of 45-50 years of age.

Interested candidates may send their CV while mentioning the **Job Code** followed by your name in subject line and in the attached CV to ***kavita.chauhan@mail.jiit.ac.in*** within 10 days of publication of this advertisement.

MDI Management Development Institute MURSHIDABAD
INVITATION FOR THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR

Management Development Institute Murshidabad (MDIM), located in Jangipur, Murshidabad, West Bengal, is the second institute established by the MDI Society. The campus reflects the Society's vision to nurture local talent and enterprise. Within a short period, MDIM has emerged as a fast-growing B-school in eastern India. The Institute launched its two-year full- time residential PGDM program in 2014.

MDI Society invites applications for the position of Director at Management Development Institute Murshidabad. The candidate should be an accomplished academic leader with vision, dynamism, and commitment to institution building. The Director will advance excellence in management education, research, and advisory services, and guide faculty, students, and stakeholders to achieve the Institute's vision and mission. Strong leadership, communication, and organizational abilities are essential. Compensation and perquisites will be attractive and commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Kindly visit **www.mdim.ac.in** to know more about the position and the detailed eligibility criteria. The last date of receiving the application or nomination with resume of the candidates in soft copy or by post is **April 10, 2026 by 1800 hrs. (IST).**

SOLAR ENERGY CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise) (A Navratna Company)
6th Floor, Plate - B, NBCC Office, Block Tower -2, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi – 110023 (An ISO Certified Company) CIN No. U40106DL2011GOI225263

Notification No. 02/2026

"RECRUITMENT FOR EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALS"

Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) - a schedule 'A' Navratna CPSE under the Administrative control of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Govt. of India. SECI invites online applications for various positions. Details of the same are given below:

REGULAR POSITIONS:

S. No.	Post	Grade	No. of Positions	Pay Scale in IDA Pattern
1.	General Manager (Projects)	E-8	1 (UR)	₹1,20,000 - 2,80,000/- (IDA)
2.	Manager (Finance)	E-4	1 (UR)	₹70,000 - 2,00,000/- (IDA)
3.	Senior Accounts Officer	E-2	3 (1-OBC-NCL, 1-ST, 1-EWS)	₹50,000 - 1,60,000/- (IDA)
4.	Junior Accountant	S-1	2 (1-SC, 1-EWS)	₹22,000 - 80,000/- (IDA)

FIXED TERM EXECUTIVE POSITIONS:

S. No.	Post	FTE GRADE	No. of Positions	Consolidated fixed monthly pay
1.	Senior Engineer (O&M)	FTE E-2	3 (3-UR)	₹50,000/-

RESERVATION/ RELAXATION/ CONCESSION to candidates belonging to OBC/ SC/ ST/EWS/PwBD/ Ex-Servicemen category shall be as per Government of India directives.

SR. CONSULTANT POSITIONS:

S. No.	Post	No. of Positions	Salary (per month)
1.	Senior Consultant (Business Development)	09*	₹1,25,000/-

09 posts – 1 post for each State –Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh.

FOR FURTHER DETAILED NOTIFICATION please visit our website www.seci.co.in 'Careers' section.

ON-LINE REGISTRATION OPENS ON 23.02.2026 (11:00 AM) AND WILL BE CLOSED ON 23.03.2026 (05:00 PM)

CLEAN INDIA - CLEAN ENERGY

Skill India
NATIONAL SKILL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(Under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Govt of India)
Kaushal Bhawan, 5th & 6th Floor, New Moti Bagh, New Delhi - 110024

CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER (CTO) HIRING

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) is a unique Public Private Partnership that plays a pivotal role in furthering India's skill development agenda. It is tasked with creating skill training capacity, incentivizing and funding skilling initiatives, fostering private sector participation, and facilitating skills delivery across priority sectors.

NSDC is inviting applications for the position of **Chief Technology Officer (CTO)** — a visionary technology leader who will drive the digital transformation of the organization and strengthen technology-led innovation in India's skilling ecosystem. The role is critical to enabling scalable, secure, and data-driven platforms that support national skill development initiatives and enhance access to skilling opportunities across the country.

The CTO will report to the Chief Executive Officer and will be responsible for leading NSDC's technology strategy, digital platforms, and IT infrastructure. The role involves driving the strategic evolution and governance of the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) and ensuring the effective integration of digital systems, processes, and data across NSDC's programs and stakeholders.

The ideal candidate should possess:

- Proven leadership in driving digital transformation and technology strategy in large and complex organizations.
- Extensive experience in IT systems development, platform management, and enterprise technology architecture including ERP/CRM ecosystems.
- Strong expertise in IT infrastructure, cloud environments, cybersecurity, and data governance.
- Demonstrated ability to lead large technology teams and manage vendors, partners, and multi-stakeholder environments.
- Experience in process automation, system integration, and scalable digital platforms supporting large user bases.
- Strong understanding of IT governance, compliance standards, ISO certifications, risk management, and business continuity frameworks.
- Ability to collaborate effectively with government institutions, industry partners, and technology providers to deliver impactful digital solutions.

For detailed Job Description and to apply, please refer to the career page on the NSDC website: www.nsdcindia.org

This is a full-time leadership role based in New Delhi.

Apply by: 19th March, 2026

THE BISHOP'S EDUCATION SOCIETY, PUNE

Invites applications for the post of:

HEADMASTER / HEADMISTRESS – SENIOR SECTION FOR THE BISHOP'S SCHOOL, PUNE

REQUIREMENTS AND QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Christian, preferably Anglo-Indian.
2. A Master's degree from a recognised University in India.
3. Minimum B.Ed. degree from a recognised Teachers Training Institution/University in India.
4. Minimum of 10 years' experience in teaching senior school students.
5. Minimum 5 years' of experience in an administrative role.
6. Experience in conducting extra and co-curricular activities.
7. Age preferably between 40 to 45 years.

Interested candidates who meet all the above pre-requisites, may submit their application along with a recent passport size photograph and detailed resume, with attested photocopies of all certificates/testimonials within 15 days from the date of this advertisement to the link given below.

https://thebishopsschool.org/tbsweb/careers.aspx

Only online applications will be accepted, addressed to the
Honorary Secretary
The Bishop's Education Society
The Bishop's School, Camp
5/A, General Bhagat Marg, Pune – 411001
www.thebishopsschool.org

Scan this QR for the link

SHRI VILE PARLE KELAVANI MANDAL'S MITHIBAI COLLEGE OF ARTS, CHAUHAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND AMRUTBEN JIVANLAL COLLEGE OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMICS

Vile Parle (West), Mumbai 400 056
(Empowered Autonomous)
NAAC Accredited 'A++' Grade, CGPA - 3.55 (November 2024)

MINORITY COLLEGE

Applications are invited for the following post

Designation	No. of Post Vacant
DEPUTY DIRECTOR PLACEMENT	01

Detailed Job Description with Educational Qualification and Experience is available on the college website. Interested candidates can apply by visiting **Careers** page on the website **www.mithibai.ac.in** within 10 days of the publication. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

SD/-
PRINCIPAL

ASSAM VALLEY FERTILIZER AND CHEMICAL COMPANY LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of Assam, OIL, NFL, HURL & BVFCL)

Recruitment of Executive on Regular Basis

AVFCCL invites applications in Executive cadre on Regular basis in the discipline of Company Secretary.

Interested candidates may visit the link JOBS.AVFCCL.NET.IN regarding registration, application process, eligibility criteria, experience requirement, corrigendum, updates, etc.

Registration Start Date: 04-03-2026
Registration End Date: 24-03-2026

Regd Office:
4th Floor, NEDFi House, G.S. Road,
Assam Sachivalaya, Kamrup - 781006, Assam, India

NTPC Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

Advt. No.: 03/26

NTPC Limited is India's largest power conglomerate with an installed capacity of 88 GW. Commensurate with our country's growth challenges, NTPC has embarked upon an ambitious plan to attain a total installed capacity of 149 GW by 2032.

To fuel its ambitious growth plans, NTPC is looking for **experienced professionals on fixed term basis.** Details are as under:

Post	Vacancies
Executive (IBD) (On Fixed term basis)	4

Interested eligible candidates should log on to our website **careers.ntpc.co.in** or visit careers section at **www.ntpc.co.in** for viewing detailed eligibility criteria, qualification criteria, experience criteria, full text of the advertisement and for applying. Only online mode of application will be accepted. **The online application portal will remain open from 09.03.2026 to 23.03.2026.** Any further addendum/corrigendum/updates will be published only on our website.

Leading the Power Sector

Mumbai Port Authority

Applications are invited for the following Class-I posts:

Sl.No.	Name of Post	No. of Posts
i.	Assistant Director (EDP)	01 UR
ii.	Assistant Director (Research)	01 UR
iii.	Catering Officer	01 UR
iv.	Assistant Executive Engineer (M/E) - (Electrical)	01 UR
v.	Executive Engineer (Electrical)	02 UR
vi.	Executive Engineer (Mechanical)	02 UR
vii.	Deputy Secretary	01 UR
viii.	Senior Welfare Officer	03 UR (01 reserved for PwBD (HH))
ix.	Deputy Manager (Welfare)	02 UR

All details are available on MbPA website **www.mumbaiport.gov.in (People & Career/Jobs/Advertisement Menu)**

a) Candidates applying for the above posts are required to apply online through the link provided on the aforesaid MbPA website.

b) Closing date for submission of online application and fee payment is **06/04/2026**

MbPA-56-2025

ONKAR SUGAR FACTORY PVT. LTD.

Add - Sakal Nagar Gate No. 1, Fortune Business House, 2nd Floor, Baner Road, Aundh. Pune 411007.
Mo. +91 8010870643, Email - hohr@onkarsugars.com

WANTED CONTRACT BASIS RECRUITMENT

Invites applications from eligible Ex-Servicemen for the following posts:

(1) Bodyguard (Male) - 4 Posts: Age up to 45, Height 172 cm, SHARP A (ONE), Retired JCO/NCO (Army/Navy/Air Force) Pref.

(2) Bodyguard (With Gun/Revolver) - 2 Posts : Valid Gun License (Renewed), Fitness Certificate, Police Verification

(3) Driver (Ex-Serviceman) - 2 Posts : Police Verification

Required Documents: Discharge Book, Pension Order, Ex-Serviceman I Card, Exemption Certificate, Aadhaar Card, PAN Card, Bank Passbook, Gun License, Driving License (For Driver)

Salary & Benefits: Rs. 35,000 - 40,000 per month, PF as per Rules, Health Insurance, Gun Allowance (for gunmen), 14 Days Annual Leave + 8 Days Casual Leave, Accommodation & Food

Last Date to Apply: 22 March 2026

Eligible candidates should send application with experience, qualification details and document copies via Email or contact the Head Office.

MAFFFL
Mumbai Aviation Fuel Farm Facility Pvt. Ltd.
Fuelling Trust
A JV of BPCL, HPCL, IOCL & MIAL

MUMBAI AVIATION FUEL FARM FACILITY PRIVATE LIMITED
CIN: U63000MH2010PTC200463
Regd. Office: MAFFFL Santacruz Fuel Farm, Domestic Airport, Next to VIP Gate No. 9, Santacruz East, Mumbai - 400 099.
E-mail: info@mafffl.in

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Applications are invited for the above post at MAFFFL, Mumbai. Interested candidates, meeting the eligibility criteria, as mentioned in **Careers under HR section of MAFFFL website https://www.mafffl.in/hr,** may submit their application in prescribed format and detailed Resume by **31st March 2026** at **info@mafffl.in**

All Updates / Corrigendum / Modifications (if any) in this regard will be published only on the aforesaid website at Career under HR section.

RAILTEL CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking under Ministry of Railways)
Registered & Corporate Office: Plate-A, 6th Floor, Office Block-III, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi-110023.
website: www.railtel.in, CIN: L64202DL2000GOI107905

Indicative Notice for Direct Recruitment in RailTel Corporation-Vacancy Notice No. RCIL/2026/P&A/44/1

RailTel Corporation of India Limited, a Navratna Public Sector Undertaking under Government of India, invites applications from Indian Citizens for the following 9 no. of vacancies for its Data Centres at Gurugram and Hyderabad:

- **Deputy Manager/Technical (System Admin):** CTC (approx.) - Rs.12 Lakh + PRP
- **Manager/Technical (Database Admin & IT):** CTC (approx.) - Rs.15 Lakh + PRP
- **Sr. Manager/Technical (System Admin & IT):** CTC (approx.) - Rs.18 Lakh + PRP

The applications in prescribed proforma should reach this office by post latest by 06.04.2026.

The detailed notice and application form for the above vacancy notice may be accessed on RailTel's website https://www.railtel.in/careers.html under 'current job openings' section.

Executive Director/HR

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar
Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-94/3889/2025-26 Date: 10.03.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the Work : Establishment of Plug & Play Infrastructure for Manufacturing / Assembly of Electricity Vehicle Component, battery pack assembly, charging infrastructure and testing centre at plot no.1B of EV Block, Harohalli 5th Phase Industrial Area, Ramanagara Taluk, Bengaluru South District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **26.03.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/6153/Zen/2025-26

ARTIFICIAL LIMBS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION OF INDIA

(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNDERTAKING MINIRATNA COMPANY)
(UNDER MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT)
(An ISO 9001: 2008 Company) • G.T.Road, Naramau Kanpur-209217
Visit us: www.alimco.in, Email: dgm_mm@alimco.in, ravi.ranjan@alimco.in
Tele Fax 0512-2770137, Ph. 2770174, TOLL FREE NO. 18001805129

GeM OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO. GEM/2026/B/7289318

Offers in two parts [Technical Bid (TC-Bid) & Price Bid (P-Bid)] are invited from reputed manufactures/ Suppliers for supply of following items as per our Specifications/Drawings.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Item	Pre-Bid Meeting Schedule @ALIMCO -HQ	Appx. Estimated Value of Requirement (Rs. In Lakh)	Amount of EMD (Rs. In Lakh)	Due date of Opening of Tender (Technical Bid)
1	GEM/2026/ B/7289318	In-house Production of Aluminum Alloy Rims & Aluminum Alloy Hand Rims inside ALIMCO Premises & Supply of Wheel Assemblies & Components	17.03.2026 at 14:00 Hrs.	12536.00	5.00	06.04.2026 15:00 Hrs.

Interested Bidders may download the GeM bid document from Corporation's website www.alimco.in or GeM Portal https://gem.gov.in. Bidders are requested to submit their Offers latest by the due date indicated above. The bid shall be opened at 13:30 hrs. on the same date i.e., on the due date. ALIMCO reserves the right to reject any or all requests/Offers without assigning any reason. For further details/ corrigendum/amendments (If any) please visit ALIMCO website time to time. For ALIMCO – DGM (Materials)

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052.

No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/25/2025-26 Date: 10.03.2026

Invitation for Short Term Tender
(Through GOK KPPP only) (Call-03)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Approx. Amount put to tender (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (Amount in Rs.)	Time of Completion
1	Primary Collection and Secondary Transporation of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in Yeshwanthpura-2 division (Package-29) **Call-03.**	**1,569.52**	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e- payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs. .14,70,000/-** by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank.	84 Months

1) Last date for uploading Pre-bid Queries :**15.03.2026 before 17:30 hrs. 2)** Tender Pre-Bid meeting: **16.03.2026 at 15:00hrs** at above mentioned office. **3)** Last Date of Receipt of Tender: **25.03.2026 before 17:30 hrs. 4)** Opening of Technical Bid: **26.04.2026 after 17:30 hrs.**

More details can be downloaded from website - **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML

DIPR/CP/JA/6149/2025-26

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल. -33004/99 REGD. NO. D.L.-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.- 17022026-270222
CG-DL-E- 17022026-270222
असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY
भाग II-खण्ड 3-उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART II-Section 3-Sub-section (ii)
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं : 788] नई दिल्ली, सोमवार, फरवरी 16, 2026 / माघ 27, 1947
No. 788] NEW DELHI, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2026/MAGHA 27, 1947

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 16th February, 2026

S.O. 826(E).—Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, **5485 Dated:28/11/2025** , published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intension to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening/four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of Belgaum-Hungund-Raichur Stretch (EC10 Hyderabad-Panaji NH NO. 748-A) in the stretch of land from Km 89+900 to Km136+800 (Special Land Acquisition Officer, NHAI Bagalkot) in the district of BELAGAVI in the state of KARNATAKA

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in "The Time of India" and "Vijay Karnataka" both dated 16.12.2025 under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas objections have been received and the same have been considered and disallowed by the competent Authority;

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Central Government;

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling within the stretch of land Belgaum-Hundgund-Raichur from Des CH. 89+900 to 136+800 stretch (EC-10 Hyderabad-Panaji NH No.748-A) (Special Land Acquisition Officer, NHAI Bagalkot) in the district of BELAGAVI in the state of KARNATAKA

Scan for Notification in English & Hindi

District: Belagavi
Publication date 16.02.2026
https://egazette.gov.in/
https://morth.gov.in/ ...
https://bhoomirashi.gov.in/

Scan for Notification in Kannada (Translatad from Englsh Notification)

[F. No. NHAI/PIU-HPT/15052/LA-03/2021-22/3D]
SHAIKH AMINKHAN, Director

6001/32/2526

The Odisha State Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited

www.omfed.com
D-2, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007
PH NO.: 0674-2546030, 2540273, 2540417, 2540974
E-mail ID: omfed@yahoo.com

Tender Notice

OMFED invites sealed techno-commercial offers from experience bidder for "Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) obligation of creating reverse logistic and recycling LDPE, LLDPE, GPPS, HIPS, HDPE, PP poly pouches used for packaging fresh milk & fresh products in towns/markets in the state of Odisha". The Bid documents will be available in the website: **www.omfed.com** from 10.03.2026 to 30.03.2026 up to 2.00 P.M. The Bids shall be opened on 31.03.2026 at 03:00 P.M. at OMFED Corporate office in the presence of the interested bidders. The corrigendum/amendment to this notice, if any shall be published in the Omfed wesite. The Management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bid document or part thereof without assigning any reason. Any addendum/Corrigendum will be published in our website.

Sd/-
Managing Director
OIPR-6001/6063/1/25-26/0021

34001/174/2526

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA

NIRMAN SOUDHA, KESHARI NAGAR, UNIT- V, BHUBANESWAR - 751 001

1st corrigendum to Bid Identification No. CE-BRIDGES - 18/ 2025-26

Following changes are made to the Invitation for the work "Construction of H. L. Bridge over river Hati at 3.200km on Khanidangriguda to Bankapala road in the District of Kalahandi under CRIF for the year 2025-26" vide **Bid Identification No. CE - BRIDGES - 18/2025-26.**

- The above mentioned work at Indicative **Total Project Cost** at Col.03 of the project cost may be read as **Rs.14,98,18,424.00** in place of **Rs.15,00,23,794.00.**
- The above mentioned work at Indicative **Total EMD Cost** at Col.05 of the project cost may be read as **Rs.14,98,200.00 Crore** in place of **Rs.15,00,300.00**
- The Last date of submission of tender is extended upto **5.00 PM of dt.25.03.2026.**
- Bids received on line shall be opened at **11.30 AM on dt.26.03.2026.**

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, Bridges
Odisha, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-34001/34174/1/25-26/0034

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052

No.DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/21/2025-26 Date: 10.03.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through GOK KPPP Only) (3rd Call)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount Put to Tender (Rs.in Lakhs)	EMD (Amount in Rs)	Contract Period
1	**Primary Collection and Secondary Transportation of Municipal solid waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in Mahadevapura-1 division (Package-24) Call-03**	1,898.76	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment mode under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs.17,99,000/-** by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized / Scheduled Bank	84 Months

1) Last date to upload pre-bid queries in kpp portal: **15.03.2026** before **5:30 pm.** 2) Tender Pre Bid meeting: **16.03.2026** at **15:00 hrs** at above mentioned office. 3) Last Date of Receipt of Tender **25.03.2026** before **5:30 pm**. 4) Opening of Technical Bid: **26.04.2026** after **5:30 pm**.

More details can be downloaded from website - **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/6168/CCL/2025-26

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052.

No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/22/2025-26 Date: 10.03.2026

Invitation for Short Term Tender
(Through GOK KPPP only) (Call-03)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Approx. Amount put to tender (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (Amount in Rs.)	Time of Completion
1	Primary Collection and Secondary Transporation of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in Mahadevapura-2 Division (Package-25) **Call-03.**	**1,865.37**	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e- payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs. 17,65,000/-** by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank.	84 Months

1) Last date for uploading Pre-bid Queries :**15.03.2026 before17:30 hrs. 2)** Tender Pre-Bid meeting: **16.03.2026 at 15:00hrs** at above mentioned office. **3)** Last Date of Receipt of Tender: **25.03.2026 before 17:30 hrs. 4)** Opening of Technical Bid: **26.04.2026 after 17:30 hrs.**

More details can be downloaded from website - **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML

DIPR/CP/JA/6148/2025-26

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052

No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/23/2025-26 Date: 10.03.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Only through GOK KPP Portal Only) Call-03

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount Put to Tender per annum (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)	Contract period
1	Primary Collection and Secondary Transportation of Municipal solid waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in KR Puram-1 division (Package-26) Call-03	1,416.48	Rs.1,00,000/- **through e payment mode** under of the following i.e., online / RTGS/ NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs 14,00,000/- by bank Guarantee/ FDR issued by Nationalized /scheduled Bank	84 Months

1) Last date to upload pre-bid queries in KPP Portal : **15.03.2026 before 17:30 hrs.** 2) Tender Pre Bid meeting :**16.03.2026 at 15:00 hrs at above mentioned office.** 3) Last Date of Receipt of Tender: **25.03.2026 before 17.30 hrs.** 4) Opening of Technical Bid: **26.04.2026 after 17.30 hrs.**

More details can be downloaded from website - **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML

DIPR/CP/6167/AKAR/2025-26

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited

(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
E-mail: pdretail@bmrc.co.in, Website: www.bmrc.co.in

Ref.: BMRCL/A (PD)/RO-18/2025-26 Dated.: 10.03.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

KPP Portal Ref. No.: BMRCL/2025-26/SE0037

BMRCL Tender No.: BMRCL/A(PD)/RO-18/2025-26 Dated.: 10.03.2026

Name of the Tender: Selection of Licensee for Retail Outlets at Madavara, Yashwanthapura, Mantri Square Sampige Road, KR Market, Banashankari & Pattandur Agrarahara Metro Stations of BMRCL.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has invited bids from interested agencies via e-Tender through the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** for licensing of retail outlet spaces available at above said Metro Stations. The key dates of Tender is as mentioned below.

1	Tender Notification No. and date	BMRCL/A(PD)/RO-18/2025-26, Dtd.:10.03.2026
2	Date from which Bid document is ready for download through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)	10.03.2026
3	Last date for seeking clarification if any	17.03.2026 before 5:30 P.M.
4	Date of Pre-bid Meeting and venue	18.03.2026 at 11:30 A.M. at BMRCL Conference hall, 3rd Floor, BMTC Complex, Kengal Hanumanthaiah Road, Shantinagara, Bengaluru-560 027.
5	Last date and time for uploading of Bid in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal platform	25.03.2026 before 5:00 P.M.
6	Date and time of opening of tenders Technical Bid & Technical Evaluation	26.03.2026 at 5:30 P.M.

Note: The Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) organises training in "e-bidding". Prospective bidders are adviced to make use of this facility. For more information, contact KPPP help desk **9240214000 / 9240214001**

Sd/- Director (Finance), BMRCL

TAMIL NADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.

(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
No. 417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai-600 008.
Phone : 044-2819 1890, 2819 0259 Website: www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in
E-Mail: gmdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in, mngrpurdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in

Online Tender is invited by the Tender Inviting Authority, Tamilnadu Medical Services Corporation Ltd., Chennai – 600008, from Licensed **Growth Hormone Injections** Manufacturers having three years Market Standing and holding Good Manufacturing Practice Certificate (as per latest revised Schedule "M" of D&C Act, 1940) issued by the Drug Control Authority. Direct Importers holding a valid Import License and experienced in the field for a minimum period of three years and Loan Licensees having valid Loan License are also eligible to participate in this tender.

Sl. No	Description	e-Tender Reference	Tender Floating Period	e-Tender Submission Duration	Date and time of online opening of Technical Bids
1	Online Tender for the supply of **Growth Hormone Injections** to TNMSC Limited under rate contract system for two years from the date of acceptances	**e-006/M(P)/ GRH/ TNMSC/2026, Dated. 11.03.2026**	**11.03.2026 at 4.00 PM to 15.04.2026 upto 3.00 PM**	**25.03.2026 at 10.00 AM to 15.04.2026 upto 3.00 PM**	**15.04.2026 at 4.00 PM**

The tender document can be downloaded and the tender shall be submitted at **https://tntenders.gov.in/.** The tender document can also be downloaded at **www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in** for reference purpose.

Tender Inviting Authority / General Manager (Drugs)

DIPR/1683/Tender/2026

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
CIN : U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website : www.pspcl.in
GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Limited
Regd. Office: Plot No. 10, Paigah Colony, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad-500003, Telangana, India CIN : U40109TG1997PLC028483
(A wholly owned subsidiary of Guru Amar Das Thermal Power Limited, GATPL)
(A step down wholly owned subsidiary of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, PSPCL)

HOD - C&I & IT, GATP, Goindwal Sahib, invites E-Tender for the work of:

1 **Tender Enquiry No. 134/GATP/CNI/60001857 dated 10/03/2026**
"Design verification, supply, Installation, integration, testing and commissioning of CEMS Gas Analyzer"
Area of 2x270 MW Thermal Power Plant GATP, Goindwal Sahib"
at 2X270 MW Guru Amardas Thermal Plant (GATP), Goindwal Sahib, Distt.: Tarn Taran, Punjab as per details given in the tender specifications.'

For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 10/03/2026 from 17:00 Hrs. onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

GATP-27/26, DPR/Pb. : 1079/12/2025-26/9279

KARNATAKA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Tumkur Division, Karnataka, Telephone : 0816 2272479.

No.EE/KPWD/Tmk/AE-2/T.No.59/2025-26/ Dt. 07-03-2026

Short Term Invitation For Tender (IFT) KW-1&3 e-TENDER NOTIFICATION.

On behalf of Government of Karnataka tenders are invited in **Two** cover system for Class-4 & above Contractors registered in PWD for **02 work** under 5054-03-337-0-17-154 SH Improvements & 01 work under 8443 Deposit Contribution Head of account in the jurisidiction of Tumkur Division through KPPP-Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** The dates are published as below.

(Maximun amount Put to Tender **Rs.59.65 Lakhs** and Minimum amount put to Tender **Rs. 8.60 Lakhs** Maximun EMD Amount **Rs. 1,19,301/-** and Minimum EMD Amount **Rs.21,493/-**)

1	Last date for tender information enquiries	**20-03-2026: 17-30**
2	Last date for submission of tender.	**23-03-2026 : 16-00**
3	Date of opening the Technical bid.	**24-03-2026 : 16-30**
4	Date of opening the Financial bid.	**25-03-2026 : 17-00**

Note: Turnover Certificate without UDI Number will not be considered, Here after any changes with reference to this Notification will be Notified in E-Portal Only

Sd/- Executive Engineer
P.W.D Division, Tumkur

DIPR/TUM/RO-298/25-26/Oysters

UNIVERSITY OF HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES, BAGALKOT.

Office Of The Estate Officer, Udyanagiri,
Near Simikeri, By-Pass Road, Bagalkot - 587 104.

No. : S.P.O./E.O./U.H.S.B./TN - 217/2025-26 Date : 10-03-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot is inviting Short Term Tender for the Establishment of Common Incubation Centre for processing of **Fruits, Vegetables at : COH, Bidar** (including of Construction Works) **under KKRDB project for the use of COH, Bidar.** The interested suppliers are requested to participate in the tender online through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. **For more Details, Please Contact Ph. : 08354-230258 and visit the link https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for detailed specification, conditions and schedule of events and notification.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1) Last Date and Time for Tender Queries / Clarification : 16-03-2026 @ 14.00 Hrs, 2) Pre Bid Meeting Date : 17-03-2026 at 11.00 Hrs, 3) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders : 20-03-2026 @ 16.00 Hrs, 4) Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid : 23-03-2026 @ 11.00 Hrs, 5) Date and Time for Opening of Financial Bid (if possible) : 26-03-2026 @ 12.00 Hrs.

All bidders shall get updated with Corrigendum / Addendum received from time to time during the entire tender process by visiting KPP Portal.

Sd/- Estate Officer,
U.H.S., Bagalkot.

DIPR/Bagalkot/639/Manipal/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. DIVISION, GADAG.

Phone No: 08372-238782 Fax No. 08372-237268
E.Mail : eepwdgad@gmail.com

No: EEPWDGDG PB- 1 3 :Diferent Head : 2025-26/ 5597 Dated:- 10/03/2026

Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer, Public works department. Division, Gadag invites itemwise tenders from eligible tenderers of **24** work of total amount of **Rs 1762.65** Lakh (Min estimate amount: **Rs- 10.00** Lakhs to Max Estimate Amount: **196.00** Lakhs) for the Different Head of account on behalf of the Hon'able Governor of Karnataka as per Standard Bid Document KW- 1, 2, 3 and 4, through **http://www.kppp. Karnataka.gov.in/**

Work Indent No:- Part 1- 32772, 32776, 32785, 32751, 33839/Call-2
(a) Last Date for Clarification up to **: 13-03-2026** (b) Last Date for Receipt of **Tenders : 17-03-2026 Noon 4.00 PM** (c) Opening of Technical Bid **Date: 18-03-2026** Financial Bid **Date: 20-03-2026**

Work Indent No:- Part 2- 32754, 32755- Category-2A, 32757, 32758- Category-2A, 32761, 32771-ST, 32774, 32775, 32759, 32764 -SC,
(a) Last Date for Clarification up to **: 16-03-2026** (b) Last Date for Receipt of **Tenders : 18-03-2026 Noon 4.00 PM** (c) Opening of Technical Bid **Date: 20-03-2026** Financial Bid **Date: 23-03-2026**

Work Indent No:- Part 3- 29111/Call-2, 22511/Call-2/SC, 33179/ Category-2A, 33340, 33746 /Category-2A, 33444, 33451, 33035, 33084
(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : **02-04-2026** (b) Last Date for Receipt of **Tenders : 04-04-2026 Noon 4.00 PM** (c) Opening of Technical/Financial Bid **Date: 06-04-2026** Financial Bid **Date: 07-04-2026**

GST shall be paid separately as per prevailing Government Order. The increase in GST shall not be paid in the extended period of contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
P.W.D. Division, Gadag.

DIPR/Gadag/700/Deshpandepublicity/2025-26

TIMES GLOBAL

* THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026

THE STRONGEST OF ALL WARRIORS ARE THESE TWO — TIME AND PATIENCE. — LEO TOLSTOY

'ONE DIRECTION' SINGER HARRY STYLES SAYS HE LEARNT TO 'BE MORE PRIVATE' ONLY AFTER LAUNCHING HIS SOLO CAREER

HUGH JACKMAN SINGS AT RUPERT MURDOCH'S 95TH BIRTHDAY PARTY, DISPLAYING A MUSICAL SIDE HE BRINGS OUT ONLY FOR SPECIAL ONES

Israel, US pummel Iran even as Trump says war 'very complete'

His Aides Hint At War Escalation, Dimming Chances of Talks

Dubai/Tel Aviv/Washington: The United States and Israel pounded Iran on Tuesday with what the Pentagon and Iranians on the ground said were the most intense airstrikes of the war, despite global markets betting that President Donald Trump will seek to end the conflict soon.

Tehran residents reached by Reuters also described the war's most intense night of bombardment. "It was like hell. They were bombing everywhere, every part of Tehran," a resident said by phone, speaking on condition of anonymity for security reasons. "My children are afraid to sleep now. We have nowhere to go." Images verified by Reuters showed two houses had been struck overnight in an upscale residential district of Karaj, just west of Tehran.

Yet with Trump having described the war on Monday as "very complete, pretty much", investors appeared convinced he would end it soon — before the disruption to global energy supplies caused a worldwide economic meltdown.

A historic surge in crude oil prices on Monday was mostly reversed within a day.

AFP

UK WARPLANES DOWN DRONES: Members of the US Air Force (USAF) work on a USAF B-1 Lancer bomber jet parked on the tarmac at RAF Fairford in south-west England on Tuesday. Fairford is one of two bases, along with the Diego Garcia facility in the Indian Ocean, that the UK has given the US permission to use for "specific defensive operations into Iran" to destroy Iranian missiles at source, the British defence minister said in a statement. British warplanes have begun "defensive air sorties" in support of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and taken out drones elsewhere in the Middle East amid the ongoing war, the ministry said

Escalating war on Iran, say American officials

But US officials signalled military operations were escalating against Iran and there was little chance of diplomatic talks, throwing cold water on President Donald Trump's suggestion that the conflict could be resolved soon. Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff said the US leader is always willing to talk, while casting doubt on Iranian willingness to do so. "It's the same question today that we had when we were negotiating with them — do they actually want to have a diplomatic solution here," he told CNBC. "So far, the evidence suggests no."

The Pentagon earlier in the day reinforced that message.

"We will not relent until the enemy is totally and decisively defeated," defense secretary Pete Hegseth said. "We do so on our timeline and at our choosing."

A source familiar with Israel's war plans said the Israeli military wanted to inflict as much damage as possible before the window for further strikes closes, under the assumption Trump could end the war at any time.

Israel: Half of Iran missiles have cluster munitions

Israel's army said that around half of the missiles being fired at the country by Iran contained cluster munitions, posing an added danger to people on the ground."Approximately 50% of Iranian missiles fired toward Israel carry cluster warheads that disperse into smaller bombs in the air," a military official said. Iran and Israel have not signed the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions, which prohibits their use. REUTERS, AFP

Israel: Iran hacked security cams

Israel's cybersecurity directorate said it had identified "dozens of Iranian breaches into security cameras for espionage purposes" since the start of the war in the Middle East, urging the public to be vigilant. "The directorate is working to alert hundreds of camera owners and calls on the public to change their passwords and update their software to prevent any security risk, whether national or personal," Cyber Israel wrote on X Monday.

Cyberattacks between Iran and Israel have been a frequent occurrence in recent years, as the two foes conducted a shadow war that culminated in open conflict last June and again on Feb 28.

In Dec 2025, former Israeli PM Naftali Bennett — who is set to run against Netanyahu in a general election this year — said he had been the victim of a cyberattack targeting his Telegram account, after hackers claimed to have broken into his phone.

Last week, the Financial Times reported that Israel had hacked nearly all of Tehran's traffic cameras for years in preparation for the operation that killed Iran's supreme leader Ali Khamenei on the first day of the offensive

Israeli cybersecurity firm Check Point said in a report that since the launch of the US-Israeli offensive on Feb 28, it has seen hackers accessing surveillance cameras, which are widely used but often poorly secured.

The hackers "are part of (Iran's) army" and "are largely supported by the state", said Gil Messing, head of cyberintelligence, Check Point.

Hackers claim cyberattack on Albanian parliament

Albania's parliament said it had been hit with a "sophisticated cyberattack", after Iran-linked hackers claimed to have stolen lawmakers' data. A group called "Homeland Justice", which has been linked to Iran, announced the hack on Telegram. AFP

HRW: Israel used white phosphorus munitions in Lebanon attack

Jerusalem: The Israeli military illegally used white phosphorus munitions over homes in the southern Lebanese town Yohmor on March 3, posing a threat to civilians, Human Rights Watch said in a report on Monday. "The incendiary effects of white phosphorus can cause death or cruel injuries that result in lifelong suffering," Ramzi Kaiss, Lebanon researcher at Human Rights Watch, said in the statement.

The rights group said it had verified eight images showing white phosphorus used over a residential part of Yohmor, and civil defense workers responding to fires in the area.

The Israeli military told Reuters it was unaware and could not confirm the use of shells that contain white phosphorus in Lebanon. It added that it had not reviewed the same videos as HRW and could not comment on the claims.

White phosphorus is considered an incendiary weapon under Protocol III of the Convention on the Prohibition of Use of Certain Conventional Weapons. Israel has not signed it and is not bound by it. REUTERS

ASIA ACTIVATES 'ENERGY SAVE' MODE

Text: NYT, Bloomberg, AFP

With crude oil price making extreme swings, it rocketed 30% to a peak above $119 a barrel before plunging to $84 Tuesday, govts are taking increasingly extreme measures to protect consumers from punishing price jumps and to constrain energy use to prevent shortages in a conflict with no end in sight. Few parts of the world are as acutely exposed as Asia to the curtailment of oil and gas from the Middle East, which accounts for a majority of the region's energy imports. Japan, South Korea and China have not ruled out the possibility of drawing down their vast reserves of oil set aside for times of crisis.

Here's how some Asian countries are trying to prevent a meltdown in their domestic economies

A crude oil tanker is guided to a berth at the oil terminal at the port in Qingdao, China, on March 7

Motorists queue to pump gasoline into their vehicles at a gas station in Hanoi, on Tuesday, as "sold out" signs begin to appear

Thailand orders WFH | Tells govt staff to work remotely where possible; govt offices to set ACs to 26 °C; officials have been told to avoid overseas trips

4-day work week in Philippines | Philippines shifted to four-day work week following an order from the President. Nearly 90% of its oil imports are sourced from the Middle East

Vietnam asks to carpool | Besides asking companies to allow employees to work from home, Vietnam asked the public to limit the use of personal vehicles, and instead opt for public transit, or carpooling

Lanka ups prices | Sri Lanka has increased retail fuel prices by over 8% in a bid to curb hoarding and panic buying

Pakistan shuts schools | Pakistan outlined over a dozen austerity measures, including temporary halting of salaries for cabinet ministers, shutting schools for two weeks from next week while universities will shift to online classes

Taiwan increases prices | Taiwan, which imports 96% of its energy and gets about 60% of its oil through the strait, is racing to lock in supplies by raising prices

Bangladesh | Ordered fuel rationing; closed universities to conserve electricity and reduce transportation needs

S Korea | In a first in 30 years, South Korea has said it will cap fuel prices at pumps

AUSTRALIA
Energy minister Chris Bowen said there was no supply problem, but "a huge spike in demand." The govt has sought to reassure buyers including farmers, who are eyeing availability of diesel and other fuels, with their crucial winter crop potentially less than a month away

GETTING IT STRAIGHT: The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow passage between Iran and Oman that separates the world's biggest oil and natural gas producers from their customers. Historically, roughly 20 million barrels pass through it each day, most of it bound for Asia. The strait has been effectively closed to seaborne traffic because of the conflict, leaving govts scrambling for solutions to keep fuel flowing and prices from spiralling out of control

140 US service members injured

Dubai: The Pentagon says that about 140 US service members have been wounded in the 10 days of conflict with Iran. "The vast majority of these injuries have been minor, and 108 service members have already returned to duty," Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said. At least 1,270 people have been killed in Iran; 486 people were killed in Israeli strikes on Lebanon; and 13 people lost their lives in Israel. AP, REUTERS

Iran hints men will skip World Cup

The head of the Iranian Football Federation on Tuesday cast further doubt on his country's participation in this summer's World Cup, saying women playing in the Asian Cup in Australia had been coerced into defecting.

Australia on Tuesday granted humanitarian visas to the five women soccer players after they sought asylum, fearing persecution over refusal to sing the national anthem. AFP

Defiant Iran vows to block Gulf oil; UAE closes biggest refinery

Iran vowed on Tuesday that not one litre of oil would be exported from the Gulf while the United States and Israel continue their bombardment, as the United Arab Emirates closed its biggest oil refinery after a drone attack.

The region's biggest single-site oil refinery, at Ruwais in the UAE, was closed on Tuesday as a precaution after a drone attack on the industrial complex which houses it caused a fire, a source familiar with the situation told AFP.

"The Strait of Hormuz will either be a strait of peace and prosperity for all or will be a strait of defeat and suffering for warmongers," Iran's security chief Ali Larijani said.

Saudi oil giant Aramco's president and CEO Amin H Nasser said: "There would be catastrophic consequences for the world's oil markets the longer the disruption goes on, and the more drastic the consequences for global economy." "It's absolutely critical that shipping resumes in the Strait of Hormuz."

Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps mocked Trump's bid to lessen the economic impact of the war, warning: "The Iranian armed forces... will not allow the export of a single litre of oil from the region to the hostile side and its partners until further notice." AFP

EU chief, Macron advocate nuclear power

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen and French President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday called on European countries to boost the use of civilian nuclear power to secure the continent's energy independence, saying the Middle East war had exposed Europe's vulnerability. Von der Leyen said Europe's turn away from civilian nuclear power had exposed the continent's fossil fuel "vulnerability". "It was a strategic mistake for Europe to turn its back on a reliable, affordable source of low-emission power," she said. Macron said civilian nuclear power helped provide energy sovereignty. "We can see it in our current geopolitical context: when we are too dependent on hydrocarbons, they can become a tool of pressure, or even of destabilisation." he added. AFP

Oil armada heads to Red Sea as Saudis divert from Hormuz

A flotilla of at least 25 supertankers is heading to Saudi Arabia's Red Sea port of Yanbu as the kingdom races to get its oil to market after the Iran war halted shipping through Hormuz.

The fleet would give the kingdom the capacity to ship 50 million barrels of oil from the port, based on ship-tracking data. Assuming they successfully load these cargoes, it would be a vital mitigation to the unprecedented disruption to supplies from the Gulf.

The conflict has cut global oil output by about 6% as countries including Iraq and Kuwait have been forced to halt fields. While Saudi and the UAE have also cut production levels, they remain uniquely positioned to bypass Hormuz by using pipeline networks connecting to the Red Sea. BLOOMBERG

War brings new water crises to parched Iran

Lisa Friedman

Washington: The war in Iran has exposed the country's water woes, which had been pushed to the brink by climate change, excessive agricultural use and decades of mismanagement. Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi on Saturday accused the US of bombing a desalination plant on Qeshm Island, affecting the water supply for 30 villages. The US govt has denied responsibility for the attack.

The incident — and Iran's subsequent bombing of a desalination plant in Bahrain — has sparked fears that the US-Israeli war with Iran could lead to broader assaults on critical water infrastructure in the Persian Gulf, threatening supplies for millions.

But Iran was already facing a critical water shortage before the conflict. "They're still in a state of crisis," said Eric Lob, an associate professor of politics and international relations at Florida International University. "There's still water scarcity issues and power outages, and if anything, now the regime can blame conflict."

NYT

Sinkholes after subsidence in the Dasht Bozorg Area of Khuzestan, southern Iran

Tehran, a city of 10 million people, has been gripped by years of drought. Late last year, the country's average rainfall dropped to 45% below normal, and the dams and reservoirs that supplied the capital were operating at minimal capacity. Iran's meteorological organisation said cities were on the brink of what it called "water day zero," the point where supply systems simply stop functioning.

Before the war started, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian called for relocating the capital and said dwindling water supplies and other ecological strains had "rendered the city uninhabitable."

A torrential rain in Dec brought little relief because it landed on dry and degraded soil with little ability to absorb the rain, said Francesco Femia, co-founder of the Center for Climate and Security, a Washington research body.

"For that reason and others related to water mismanagement, the rains also didn't replenish Iran's groundwater aquifers, leaving the country in a continued state of severe water stress," Femia said.

Climate change has played a role. Drought cycles are becoming more frequent and severe, and last year marked one of the driest periods in the last 20 years for Iran. Extreme weather — like a 2023 heat wave that led to a two-day nationwide shutdown when temperatures reached 123°F — has made water shortages worse. At the same time, snowmelt in the mountains that feeds rivers has been declining.

But the Iranian govt also dangerously deepened the crisis with decades of mismanagement, experts said.

After the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Iran began drastically accelerating the construction of dams and reservoirs in a search for water self-sufficiency. But many were built in poor locations and rising heat has intensified water evaporation.

"The priority was power and profit, rather than what made sense from an ecological or water standpoint," Lob said. Now many reservoirs stand nearly empty and have become what one critic called "monuments to failure."

Iranian authorities have also quieted environmental activists and govt officials who called for taking water issues more seriously.

The country is also draining what remains of its underground water. A 2024 study of 1,700 water reserves in 40 countries found that 32 of the world's 50 most overpumped aquifers are in Iran. NYT

Journalists covering Mideast war face detention, more curbs

Journalists covering the war in the Middle East are facing increasing restrictions and censorship imposed by govts and armed groups, with reporters being stopped and questioned or even detained, a survey of AFP bureau chiefs from the region showed.

Some of the tightest restrictions are in Iran and Israel, although Gulf monarchies, targets of unprecedented drone and missile attacks from Iran, have also imposed tighter controls. Govts seem particularly concerned about images that disclose the location of missile and drone strikes, or that show projectiles being intercepted.

Obtaining independent information outside of official channels is particularly difficult in Iran, where media access to areas outside the capital Tehran is limited or nonexistent. With the Iranian internet barely functioning and security extremely tight, there is relatively little independent user generated content being posted from within Iran.

AFP's Middle East photo chief Jewel Samad said Iran's intelligence ministry warned: "If someone takes photos of sensitive places or damaged buildings and areas or records the locations of centres with a GPS device or mobile phone and marks the places, they could be an agent of the American-Zionist enemy."

Iran's foe Israel has imposed strict censorship of sensitive army operations for decades, but has tightened its restrictions as it faces strikes from Iran and the Iranian-backed Shia militia Hezbollah in Lebanon. The army has banned live broadcasts of the Israeli skyline when alarms have been sounded to warn of incoming missiles or drones. The army has banned filming impacts at or near security sites.

On the US side, and unlike the 2003 Gulf War, the Pentagon has not invited international media such as AFP to join military embeds. US and international news outlets including AFP, AP, Fox News and the NYT were stripped of their Pentagon credentials last year when they declined to sign new media rules. AFP

WORLD DIGEST

China-N Korea trains to resume after six-year halt

Passenger train services between China and North Korea will resume this week six years after their suspension due to the Covid-19 pandemic, rail authorities in Beijing confirmed on Tuesday. Train journeys between the two countries were halted in 2020 as they imposed strict border closures to prevent the coronavirus from spreading. While China has since fully reopened its borders, North Korea has proceeded more slowly, though direct flights and train services with Russia resumed last year.

Barrier that led to fatal jet crash built to save money

A concrete barrier blamed for a deadly South Korean jet crash that killed 179 people in Dec 2024 had been built to cut costs, the state auditor said on Tuesday. Jeju Air Flight 2216 was coming in to land at Muan International Airport from Thailand when it struck a flock of birds and was forced to make a belly landing. While the pilots managed to put the aircraft down and slide it along the runway, it burst into a fireball after colliding with a concrete structure buried inside a mound at the end of the runway, killing 179 people on board. Only two flight attendants seated in the tail section survived.

Psychedelics help more smokers in kicking habit

A single dose of psilocybin, the active compound in magic mushrooms, appears significantly more effective than nicotine patches at helping people quit smoking, a new study shows. Researchers conducted a randomised trial involving 82 adult smokers who were "psychiatrically healthy." Existing treatments such as medications, antidepressants, nicotine replacement therapy and counseling typically fail after six months, according to the study published Tuesday in JAMA Network Open.

Lens on Somalian gangs as Indian hotels in UK vandalised

Naomi Canton

London: Gangs of suspected Somalian men have allegedly been terrorising Indian-origin shopkeepers and restaurant owners in Wembley and trashing their shops in targeted attacks of late. This follows the attack in Harlow last week, when a gang attacked Holi revellers. Wembley shopkeepers felt it could be the same group.

Bob Blackman MP raised the Harrow attack in Parliament on Monday, stating: "Thugs from the Central Mosque attacked the annual Holi celebration in Harrow, attempting to assault over 1,000 peaceful worshippers. 20 attackers, one arrest... The Met has questions to answer."

Manek Chowk Indian restaurant on Ealing Road, Wembley, was attacked twice in the past week — March 5 and March 7. Videos showed the miscreants, most in thobes and all in face coverings, descending upon the restaurant and wrecking it. Another showed tables and chairs turned over, with food and crockery all over the place.

A local PIO store owner, who witnessed the vandalism, said: "It started in Traders Wembley Wednesday. Three men from Daman and Diu were beaten up in the toilets and left bleeding. It was a Somalian gang of young boys. Next, they targeted Manek Chowk. It was a gang of 15 to 20. They came from the mosque area and attacked the restaurant, and 10 or 12 youths got off the bus and joined them and started smashing the restaurant. They didn't speak. They just started throwing tables and chairs. They attacked the tills and broke the lights. An Indian man who tried to intervene was hit with a bottle. It keeps happening after 8pm and is totally unprovoked."

Another video, shot March 6, showed a gang of masked men in thobes pulling fruit and veg boxes out at Panesar Food and Wine in Harrow Road, Wembley, throwing them on the ground and treading on them. "They destroy the places, video it and go. It looks like they are paid," a local said.

Both times, by the time police showed up, the gang had fled after causing destruction worth thousands of pounds.

On Monday night, a Gujarati-origin man was stabbed in Ealing Road and rushed to A&E. A Brent Council spokesperson said: "Any violent or targeted intimidation of local businesses is utterly unacceptable and will not be tolerated in Brent. We encourage anyone with information or footage to come forward to the police without delay."

Kyiv: US proposed Ukraine-Russia talks next week

The US has proposed another round of Russia-Ukraine talks, mediated by Washington, on ending four years of war next week, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Tuesday. Two rounds of trilateral talks failed to reach any breakthrough to end Europe's worst conflict since WWII, launched by Moscow in 2022.

Zelensky said in an audio message that talks — initially planned for last week in the UAE — had been postponed until next week by the US. "This was proposed by the American side, but we'll see what happens in the Middle East, to be honest," Zelensky said, adding that the meeting "could be in Switzerland or Turkey."

He urged the West not to lift sanctions on Russia, including on its oil exports. AFP

Canadian police begin probe into gunfire at US consulate in Toronto

Toronto/Washington: Canadian police are investigating after the United States consulate in downtown Toronto was hit by gunfire early on Tuesday morning. Nobody was injured.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police chief superintendent Chris Leather called it a national security incident and said the national police force is working with Toronto police to understand the motive.

Canada is increasing security around US and Israeli diplomatic buildings after the incident, he said. "These consulates deserve a heightened amount of vigilance and security at this time in the hopes that we can bring the temperature down in the coming days," Leather told reporters at a press meet.

Toronto Police deputy chief Frank Barredo said police were called to the US consulate in Toronto around 5.30am (ET) on Tuesday, where they found spent shell casings and damage to the building. Barredo said witness evidence indicated that two men exited a white SUV that was stopped outside the consulate around 4.30am shot a handgun at the front of the building and then drove away.

Police released a picture of the white SUV, but there was no further information about the suspects.

The consulate shooting follows three separate incidents last week where gunshots were fired at synagogues in the Toronto area. No one was injured in those shootings. REUTERS, AP

CONTRAPUNTO

In order to get elected, @BarackObama will start a war with Iran

– DONALD TRUMP, NOV 30, 2011

Don't Let Panic Grow

Right now, gas supply isn't a crisis. GOI should communicate smartly

Markets are fickle, but on Tuesday they seemed confident Iran war will end soon. Their optimism stems from Trump, who's now calling his war a "short-term excursion", one that is "very complete, pretty much". When war ends, oil and gas supplies through Strait of Hormuz will resume. Prices, and economic activity, will return to normal. Trump's one-hour chat with Putin on Monday, followed by his hint of easing oil and gas sanctions on Russia, bolsters this hope. Russia, after all, is world's second major oil exporter, and has the largest natural gas reserves.

And gas is the bigger problem right now, after 11 days of fighting. As we said in an earlier edit – *tinyurl.com/479yyask* – India meets about 60% of its LPG, and half of natural gas, requirements through imports. Mostly from Qatar and other West Asian countries, which can't send tankers now. Because gas is costlier to store than oil – it needs extreme cooling – we don't have many weeks' stock. Hence, GOI's decision on Tuesday, to regulate gas distribution to different sectors until normal supply resumes.

Ordinarily, biggest share of gas goes to fertiliser factories. But now, PNG for kitchens and CNG for transport will be prioritised, followed by fertiliser and other industries, "subject to availability". Likewise, LPG for households. While this is pragmatic, essential and non-essential uses shouldn't be decided on old assumptions. Yes, people need food, so fuel for cooking has first claim on country's gas stock. But, does everyone eat at home? Think about workers eating in factory canteens, truckers eating at dhabas, many people in small eateries. "Commercial" kitchens are as much a necessity as domestic kitchens. Without gas, a whole ecosystem of canteens, restaurants and lakhs of workers, can grind to a halt for days, or even weeks. So, distribution between domestic and commercial uses must not be too skewed against the latter.

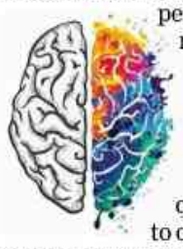
Most important, GOI should make sure there's no popular perception of a crisis; there isn't a crisis. Because of information asymmetry between gas sellers and the consuming public, perception of crisis can cause artificial shortages and price gouging. It's govts' job to ensure this doesn't happen. Perhaps, now is the best time to preach energy conservation – cooking with a lid on, using microwaves and induction cookers. Govt offices in Philippines have been told to run ACs at 24°C while the oil shock lasts. And long-term, we absolutely must reduce dependence on imported gas by expanding biogas production. India has enough compostable biomass to meet 100% of gas needs. And compost can replace fertilisers. That's billions of dollars saved every year.

Escapism Done Right

Feed your brain fine things, the result will be resilience. Feed it junk, you'll grow sillier by the minute

Dalgona coffee. Sourdough bread. Craftcore. Retro bingeing *Malgudi Days* and *Mad Men*. Rereading Ghalib and Premchand, Austen and Shakespeare. These were some of the ways we sought distraction during Covid. Today, there is a war going on in West Asia, which is not as scary as Covid, not yet. But life was already full of worries, so how is one to cope with this added stress? Escapism, hello, we are embracing you, once again. But are you a friend or frenemy?

That, actually, depends entirely on our own intentionality. Neil Postman's 1985 volume, *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, remains the helpful classic on this subject. He describes people drowning in a sea of diversions, which make them sillier, by the minute. This is a peek-a-boo world, where content pops into view for a moment, then vanishes. We are not able to recollect the story, the tune, the message, anything at all, the next day, let alone the next year. And some of this content consumption does even worse things to us. It makes us more anxious, more tribal, less trusting of science, and less capable of sitting quietly by ourselves. Just like we give a good diet to our body, our brain needs to be fed fine things. What happens when we feed it only junk? Brain rot.

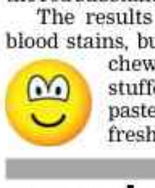


Il faut cultiver notre jardin – we must cultivate our garden. This is Voltaire's advice in an even earlier classic – *Candide*, first published in 1759. It suggests that the antidote when faced with ennui, or evil, is making something, tending something, pursuing concrete, productive engagement. What's really encouraging is that, where once neuroplasticity was thought the gift of childhood alone, research has now shown it continues throughout the human lifespan. Our brain is happy to learn, relearn, and absorb new ideas, if that's our intention. When we do interesting work to improve our critical thinking, there is also a big unconscious bonus. In sleep, those neural connections grow strong magically. Do escapism right, and it makes you more resilient.

Thook de, India!

On lending a splash of post-colonial colour to London

Jug Suraiya



London was in a pother, and the legendary British stiff upper lip was noticeably aquiver. The causes of this disquiet were great blood-red splatters appearing everywhere, on the walls of buildings, on pavements, in parks.

What were they, and what caused them? Were they blood stains, and who was responsible for them? Was there a sudden outbreak of vampirism, a possible side effect of the Covid pandemic, manifesting itself as a symptom of the bug making a comeback? Was a latter-day Jack the Ripper on the prowl? Scotland Yard was called in to investigate. Samples of the red substance were collected, and sent for forensic analysis.

The results revealed that the ominous splotches and globs were not blood stains, but the products of human salivary glands, stimulated by the chewing of the leaves of the Piper Betel climbing vine, which, stuffed with chopped areca nuts, and liberally smeared with kattha paste (Acacia catechu), made up the Indian digestive aid-cum-mouth freshener known as paan.

secondopinion

However, while the mastication of paan did induce the production of copious amounts of saliva that required ejection, the question arose whether the practice of paan chomping caused spitting, or whether the determination to spit created the paan. What lay behind the spitting image of India?

Social anthropologists shed light on the matter, tracing the origins of this oral practice to the large signs displayed in Indian post offices, in 1950s and 1960s: Do Not Affix Stamps With Sputum.

This official proscription provoked the innate response of swaraj, so characteristic of the Indian ethos – not permitted to affix sputum on stamps, the populace began to affix sputum on all and sundry else: streets, trees, offices, vehicles, parked or passing.

As the Culture Correspondent of *The Guarjian* newspaper, Anne Arky, noted in an article titled 'Great Expectorations', this free-spirited expression of individual independence was exported to UK, and to London, as an ongoing extension of the Freedom Movement, against 250 years of colonial rule, and the expropriation of the Kohinoor, without so much as a by-your-leave, and was a legitimate statement, worthy of the Turner Prize for Installation Art.

World's Newest Beijing Problem

China is investing & producing, in huge numbers, to goose the economy. That's leading to Chinese goods being exported, at cut-price rates, around the world, harming industry everywhere. It's also not a good strategy for China, because it is accumulating debt

Ruchir Sharma

China is famous for zealously pushing growth. So, much was made of its recent decision to lower its GDP target to between 4.5% and 5%. But this was a marginal change. China's irrational hopes for growth are an increasingly big problem for the world.

The target is not based on economics. It's a political goal that reflects Beijing's ambition to surpass US, and become a developed economy by 2035. In pursuit of that aim, Beijing has been overinvesting for years, but lately, it has been dumping the excess output it can't sell at home. In the past, China's export volumes rose with prices; this decade, Beijing has dropped export prices nearly 20%, producing a 40% surge in volume.

Booming exports, along with weak imports, increased China's trade surplus, last year, by 20%, to a record $1.2tn. Net exports accounted for a third of its 2025 GDP growth, which is a bloated share, even by China's standards. As a share of global GDP, no nation has ever had a larger trade surplus, and that includes Japan during its 1980s heyday, as an export power.

China's dumping offensive is de-industrialising rival exporters the world over, idling car factories in Thailand, and textile plants in Indonesia. Across Asia, nations where Chinese imports are rising fastest, also tend to have the weakest job growth. India has been particularly hard hit recently, and has suffered a sharper decline in its share of global manufacturing, than many Asian rivals.

Influx of cheap Chinese imports has taken significant chunks – of markets for plastic products, computers, machinery and other goods – from Indian factories. It's pushing down prices in industries from textiles to steel, squeezing profits, and drove up India's trade deficit with China by nearly 15% just last year.

A reaction is underway. Among world's top 70 economies, 50, including India, have taken steps to defend themselves against Chinese dumping. Leaders of France and Germany have complained directly to Xi about Beijing's trade practices. Yet worldwide, pace of new protective measures slowed last year – as many nations turned their attention to attacks from US.

Across Europe, West Asia and Asia, policymakers in several countries said they can't fight a two-front global trade war. So, they have focused on managing the more volatile threat of Trump tariffs. This makes it easier for Beijing to keep dumping its surplus production.

Root of the problem is the country's growth target.

Of nearly 40 nations that rose into developed ranks after WWII, none faced the twin hurdles that confront China today: depopulation and massive debt. No other major nation in history has managed to sustain growth above 2% with a shrinking labour force. And at 340% of GDP, China's total debts are higher than any other emerging economy's, by far.

Beijing is trying to engineer a historically implausible miracle. Given its demographic decline, China can hit its target only by raising output per worker, but maintaining overall productivity growth near 5% would be an unprecedented feat, at this stage of development.

Lately China has been moving in the opposite direction. Productivity growth includes contributions from labour, capital, and a critical "total factor", which aims to capture how much growth labour is squeezing out of the investment. Think tank Conference Board estimates that this key third factor has fallen to near zero this decade, implying China is generating growth only by investing more heavily.

China keeps pumping out credit to fund more investment, but mostly it's getting a bigger debt pile. To generate $1 of GDP growth in China, it now takes $6 of new debt, up from $1 two decades ago.

Beijing is counting on investment in new technologies, including AI, to boost productivity, but it's highly unlikely that boost will be big enough to sustain productivity growth near 5%. China's real potential growth rate is probably 2-3%.

For decades, outsiders have told Beijing it could generate steadier growth and mollify trade partners in one stroke. Just shift focus from exports to domestic consumption. True, consumption is a relatively small share of China's economy, but not because it has been "suppressed", as received wisdom would have it.

Despite the recent weakening, consumer spending has grown at an annual pace of 5% this decade – faster than in any other major economy. While Chinese consumers have increased their savings rate in recent years, this is more a reaction to their high debt burden and losses in property market than a sign that they have ample room to raise their spending.

The real problem is not weak consumption growth, but that investment is growing faster, compelling China to flood the world with its excess production. Chinese exports, now $3.8tn a year, recently surpassed US imports for the first time, and the gap is growing.

If Team Trump believes US is being "ripped off" in global trade, it should focus less on battling its partners and more on China's export offensive and the inspiration behind it: the growth target. That target is completely unrealistic, damaging for the world and self-destructive for China.

Five Ways The Iran War Can End

Iranian regime may survive or collapse, that's obvious. But either outcome can, in turn, have multiple results, from confrontation to accommodation, or many things in between. Some scenarios

Jane Kinninmont

Columnist based in London

Over the past few days, Trump has said there are "no time limits", on the war he initiated with Iran. Meanwhile, Iran's leaders want to convey the message that they can endure the attacks. They hope US attention span will prove short. Israeli leadership is committed to changing the Iranian regime, even if this means the collapse of the Iranian state.

US – which is more distant from the region, and out of range of Iran's missiles – has already suggested that a "Venezuela scenario" could be acceptable. Gulf countries are also pushing for quick de-escalation, to limit the damage being done to the region's economies.

So, what is most likely?

Regime survival scenarios | Iran's political regime survives under its new leadership, but is militarily weakened by US-Israeli attacks. So far, Iranian political system has survived, and it looks like the internal balance of power is tilting more towards Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), rather than the presidency, the clerical establishment, or the regular military. The most significant signal is that Mojtaba Khamenei has now succeeded his father, Ayatollah Khamenei, as the country's top authority.

- **Regime survival + continued conflict with US**

Mojtaba is not the most senior cleric in Iran, in terms of religious qualifications. Rather, his power is from his close association with IRGC, and intelligence services. Under him, if the system survives, it will be profoundly isolated from its neighbours, heavily sanctioned (think Iraq after 1991), and, most likely, seeking ways to get revenge on US, and Israel, through asymmetric means.

- **Regime survival + an accommodation with US**

The continuing war is costly for all, whatever the defiant rhetoric. It's likely that a combination of Arab and Islamic states (such as Oman, Indonesia, and perhaps Pakistan) will seek to mediate, firstly, to prevent the conflict from spreading, and secondly, to explore off-ramps for US and Iran, to wind down the intense phase of the war.

If the Iranian system survives, there could be scope for pragmatic accommodation, short of total surrender, where US would essentially declare victory, and walk away – concluding that Iran's military capabilities had been destroyed, so the country would not be a significant threat outside its borders. A key question here is, the location of the highly enriched uranium that Iran has stockpiled.

However, conflict could well recur in the future, with its causes unresolved.

Regime fragmentation or collapse | There are multiple possible scenarios for the Iranian political system to fragment, or fall apart.

- **Multiple power centres emerge**

There are likely to be some differences of opinion within the system, and many are watching for signs of explicit fractures. In Dec, former president Rouhani said some Iranian decision-makers were badly miscalculating their ability to deter, or defend, against an attack by US and Israel. He seems to have been right.

There will be others who think IRGC has mishandled the country's core security interests, and destroyed its future economic prospects.

Fragmentation may lead to a breakdown of the system, or could mean that decision-making becomes more difficult. This will make a stable accommodation with US harder to reach.

- **Organised transition to new constitution, or eventual democracy**

There may still be some reformists within Iran's system. They would like to see leaders resetting the social contract, making an alliance with anti-war elements. This is surely worth exploring for Iran's domestic opposition groups. But, with IRGC effectively in charge, this is unlikely.

Large-scale protests are impossible while Iran is under bombardment, and protests in Jan were met with extreme violence. But, given that there have been mass uprisings every few years, there could be large-scale protests later, seeking to push for political change. If the regime is fragmenting, the political dynamics could be different from what they were during the last round of protests.

- **Civil war**

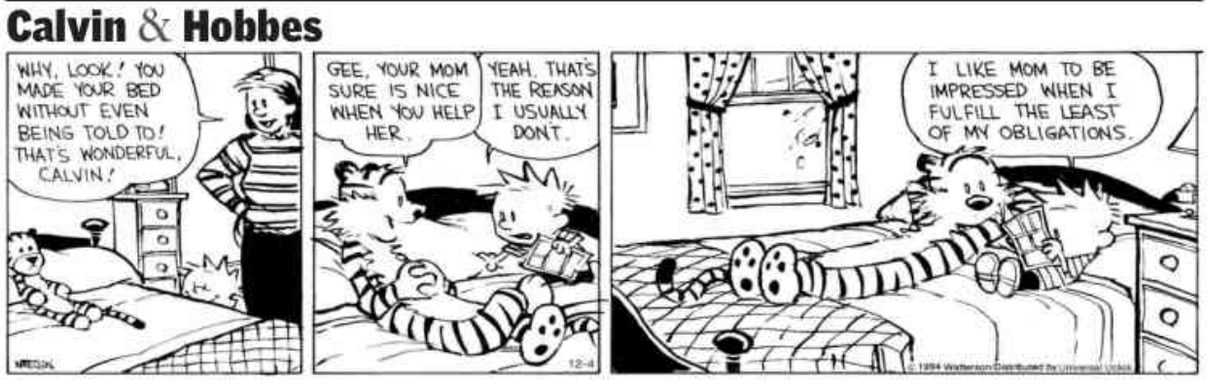
US has recently suggested it could arm uprisings inside Iran, including from Kurdish factions. Türkiye has objected strongly. There are already various armed groups, from Kurdish and Azeri, to Baloch ethnic minorities, operating inside Iran. They could potentially scale up their opposition, with US and Israeli support.

Iran's diaspora opposition leaders are mostly opposed to such policies, but have no control over US and Israeli decision-making. There are also risks that ISIS might step up its attacks. Current attacks on state infra mean a new leadership will struggle to wield power effectively, regardless of its degree of authoritarianism, or its relations with US.

Last, the issue of foreign intervention has been very divisive for Iranians. US may not look like a liberator to many Iranians. That complicates matters even more for those opposed to the Ayatollah regime.

The writer is a West Asia expert

Calvin & Hobbes


WHY, LOOK! YOU MADE YOUR BED WITHOUT EVEN BEING TOLD TO! THAT'S WONDERFUL, CALVIN!
GEE, YOUR MOM SURE IS NICE WHEN YOU HELP HER.
YEAH, THAT'S THE REASON I USUALLY DON'T.
I LIKE MOM TO BE IMPRESSED WHEN I FULFILL THE LEAST OF MY OBLIGATIONS.

Sacred*space*

At the time of the pralaya (universal destruction) the oceans are to exceed their limits and seek to change, but a saintly man never changes.

Chanakya

Apocalyptic Imagery And Promise Of Peace

AK Merchant

Recent reports suggesting that *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* is setting the hypothetical 'Doomsday Clock' to 85 seconds to midnight, meaning closer to a global catastrophe, have triggered a variety of responses from geopolitical commentators. Bahá'í interpretation treats apocalyptic imagery – tribulation, Day of Judgment, cosmic signs – as symbolic of spiritual and social processes rather than a single terminal catastrophe. Warnings of calamity are understood as part of the Major Plan's purifying and motivating role: they can precipitate change, but they are not the final aim; the ultimate aim is the establishment of justice and unity. Bahá'í writings offer profound insights and view the march of civilisation, in the context of crises and victories involving the three protagonists: individuals, communities, and institutions that constitute society.

The community is mindful of two complementary movements that are shaping the future of humankind. The Major Plan of God refers to the large-scale, providential forces by which God's purpose is advanced. These can include upheavals, collapse of old orders and events that 'disintegrate' existing structures to make way for the establishment of a new global order. Bahá'ís understand these as alternating cycles of integration and disintegration that would ultimately lead towards a world commonwealth and spiritual unity.

God's Major Plan may use 'both the mighty and lowly as pawns' in bringing about world-shaping changes. This parallels the Minor Plan, which concerns spiritual regeneration of humanity and is largely carried out through collective services of believers: teaching, institution-building, social action, and moral transformation that concretely implement the vision of unity in diversity. Bahá'ís are urged to concentrate on constructive service: forming communities, schools, and consultative institutions, because these are means by which the promises implicit in prophetic language are to be realised.

THE SPEAKING TREE

From time to time, the Universal House of Justice, the supreme governing council of the Bahá'í Faith, urges humankind to stay focused on activities for betterment of society rather than being overly concerned about catastrophes.

Because interpreting the Cosmic Will as licence for fatalism or panic undermines the emerging Golden Era. Humanity is not lacking in creativity, positive initiative, or even resources; millions of people of goodwill are contributing to halting and reversing destructive tendencies, remaining ever hopeful, galvanised by a vision of prosperity, and awakening to possibilities of spiritual and material well-being.

Yet grave dangers announced by the Doomsday Clock Statement should not be ignored: "Hard-won global understandings are collapsing, accelerating a winner-takes-all great power competition and undermining the international cooperation critical to reducing risks of nuclear war, climate change, misuse of biotechnology, potential threat of AI, and other apocalyptic dangers."

As the world we know passes away and a new one struggles to be born, Bahá'ís, some eight-million-strong, stand together in shaping humankind's collective destiny, greatly energised by the most recent guidance from the Universal House of Justice: "Looking back over one's life, there can be no greater joy and comfort than to know that it was spent in acute awareness of the divine remedy, that no effort was spared to proffer that remedy to receptive souls, and that during those fleeting years when opportunity was at hand, even in the midst of difficulties, every chance was seized to respond to humanity's intense need…"

The writer is a member of the Bahá'í community of India. Views are personal

Meet the girls who pass and tackle life's hurdles with rugby

In Odisha's Mayurbhanj, where child marriage is common and resources scarce, girls are shattering stereotypes and charting a bold path for themselves through the sport. Reluctant at first, their families and communities are now their biggest champions, pooling resources to fuel their dreams

Parbati Hansdah, a national-level rugby player, leading a warm-up session at the Mayurbhanj Law College ground in Baripada

Photos: Sanjib Das

Diana.Sahu@timesofindia.com

Bholagadia lies hidden on the periphery of Similipal Tiger Reserve in the tribal-majority Mayurbhanj district of Odisha. The national park has the unusual claim to fame of being the only abode of the black tiger but, away from its safari trails and camera traps, the village has become breeding ground for a brave band of youngsters who are carving out a name for themselves and the region, by putting it on India's rugby map. Playing a leading part in this story are girls — determined and driven — but it's the community as a whole that has fostered their success, essaying a remarkable supporting role.

If old residents returned to light the initial spark, the effort was sustained by the generosity of villagers and gram panchayats. And if local patrons provided encouragement, pride in the youngsters' achievements has ensured that a grassroots initiative is now a full-blown sporting revolution. But like all great stories, this one, too, begins with hurdles.

'Just One Chance'

It is late afternoon as a group of about 30 boys and girls go through their paces at the modest arena in Bholagadia. The setting — framed by forests and rolling hills — is as striking as it is unexpected. Commanding the field with quiet authority is Arati Murmu, 21. Twenty of the players are tribal girls who sprint, pass and tackle with a confidence that matches — and often surpasses — their male counterparts.

Arati was just 11 when she first picked up a rugby ball, unaware that it would one day define her life. At 17, the Santali girl from Marangtandi village was on the verge of being pushed into marriage. She fled home and found refuge at the rugby training centre in Bholagadia. Today, she holds two national gold medals.

A few kilometres away in Baripada town, Parbati Hansdah spends her evenings at the playground of Mayurbhanj Law College, demonstrating crisp passing and safe tackling techniques to her juniors. Introduced to rugby during her early years at Ranibhole Girls High School, she faced stiff resistance when she chose to pursue the sport after class 10.

"I asked my parents to give me just one chance. They agreed, but only for a year. If I failed, I'd have to get married," recalls the 20-year-old. She did not fail. Since then, Parbati has represented Odisha and India at eight national and two international meets across junior and senior categories, collecting four gold and two silver medals.

'Lot Of Persuasion'

"It wasn't easy convincing the parents of the girls. This is a region where early marriage is still practised. Parents worry more about marrying off their daughters before 18 than allowing them to play a game like rugby, where injuries are common. They would ask us, '*Goda, haata bhangi gale, kiye baha haba*? (Who will marry them if they break their hands and legs?)'. Our real roadblock was not finding girls who were fit for the game, but counselling their parents. It took a lot of persuasion," says J Sushil Hembram of the Mayurbhanj District Rugby Football Association (MDRFA).

It was in 2019 that Hembram, along with Sunaram Kisku and Dibyaranjan Das — former rugby players hailing from local tribal communities — decided to bring the sport to their villages. The trio had studied and played in Bhubaneswar, where the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) has long promoted rugby.

Arati Murmu recently placed cheques of Rs 5 lakh and Rs 6 lakh — given by Odisha govt for her performances on the field — in her father's hands. He had once wanted to get her married early, but now sees how rugby has brought recognition and financial support to the family

Das, a former student of KISS, later served as a physical education trainer there. He had seen firsthand how structured training and institutional support could turn raw talent from remote villages into national-level players.

Determined to recreate that model back home, the three returned to Mayurbhanj. Their goal was simple but ambitious: identify promising tribal boys and girls with natural athletic ability and introduce them to a sport that, at the time, many in the region had barely heard of.

In 2019, Das set up Future Star Sports Academy in Baripada, while Hembram and Kisku established the MDRFA, headquartered at Bholagadia under Khunta tehsil. Before the academies formally took shape, Das and Hembram travelled extensively across Mayurbhanj, visiting schools under the SC and ST department to scout for young talent. Their focus was on children in the 8-17 age group who, they believed, could be groomed early. Moving from one school to another, they introduced students to the basics of rugby and shortlisted those who showed promise in preliminary drills.

Many of the girls, from tribes like Santal, Munda and Ho, belong to families dependent on marginal farming and daily-wage labour. Some are being raised by single mothers struggling to make ends meet, some are orphans. "On the field, our hardships fade into the background, replaced by the will to build a better future through this sport," said Parbati.

Future Star Academy and MDRFA began with just five-10 trainees each. Today, together, they have more than 100 youths who have played at the national level and several others who are training to do so — most of them tribal girls. Arati, Parbati and Sandhyarani Tudu have already represented India internationally across junior and senior categories.

At both centres, food, accommodation and training are provided free of cost.

> **"This is a region where early marriage is still practised... Our real roadblock was not finding girls who were fit for the game, but counselling their parents**
>
> *—J Sushil Hembram, co-founder, Mayurbhanj District Rugby Football Association*

"Trainees continue their education at nearby govt schools and colleges. Those who want to pursue higher education do so through distance learning," Das said.

'Empowering In Truest Sense'

Arati's father drives an autorickshaw and her two brothers are unemployed. Recently, she returned home with cheques of Rs 5 lakh and Rs 6 lakh — awarded by the Odisha govt for the two gold medals she won at the 37th and 38th Senior National Games — and placed them in her father's hands. "The moment was empowering in the truest sense," she says.

Her father had once considered getting her married early, but now sees how rugby has brought recognition and financial support to the family.

"When I decided to play rugby, my parents were reluctant; wearing shorts and playing a sport considered manly was looked down upon in our society. But when I played for Odisha and India and won gold, my father was the proudest. He now tells everyone to allow their daughters to take up the sport," said Parbati, who debuted for Odisha at the 36th National Games in Gujarat in 2022.

Nurtured By The Community

What stands out in Mayurbhanj's rugby revolution is that it is sustained not by govt, but largely by the local community. In a region with limited resources, they help with whatever they can — from food to funds.

Tribals in Bholagadia and nearby villages donate rice, vegetables and pulses every month to ensure trainees get nutritious food. "There are panchayat meetings every fortnight. Whenever there is a shortage, we place a list of groceries that are needed, and villagers send everything to our centre," said Hembram.

In seasons of surplus harvest, a significant portion of the produce is sent directly to the training centre, while the rest is sold in local haats. Support also comes from youths who have migrated and become professionals, said Baba Dhalaram Hansdah, chief adviser of the MDRFA.

A similar donation model sustains the Future Star Sports Academy, with support coming from well-wishers and the Mayurbhanj Foundation, which was set up by erstwhile Mayurbhanj royals. Last year, they hosted the first-ever Maharaja 7s Rugby Tournament, deepening community ownership of the sport.

"Sport has always been part of Mayurbhanj's DNA — from the warrior discipline of chhau and akhada-style training to *mudhi mangsho*, known as the breakfast of warriors. Since the princely era, the Bhanj Deo rulers have promoted sport, founding institutions like the Maharajah Sri Ram Chandra Bhanj Deo Football Club in 1919. What's powerful is that the same villages that were producing athletes a century ago continue to do so today," said Akshita M Bhanj Deo, a member of the Mayurbhanj royal family.

The Road Ahead

"Today, Mayurbhanj sends the highest number of players to Indian rugby, and most of them are girls," said Das. Some players who excelled nationally have received job offers from govt and private organisations, but significant challenges persist. Nutrition remains the biggest concern, said Kisku. Community donations ensure three meals a day but do not guarantee balanced nutrition. "Athletes need wholesome, nutrient-rich food for rigorous training. That can only come from a proper dietary plan," he said.

Infrastructure is another hurdle. Lack of quality playgrounds and training facilities make high-level practice difficult. India remain minnows in world rugby — the women's team is ranked No. 56, the men are No. 86 — but the girls training in Mayurbhanj know that no hurdle is high enough to deter them from dreaming.

National Highways Authority of India
(Ministry of Road Transport and Highways)

भर्ती सूचना/RECRUITMENT NOTICE

भारतीय राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण (भा.रा.रा.प्रा.) **संविदा आधार पर** निम्नलिखित पदों के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है:–

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) invites applications for following positions **on contract basis:-**

Name of the post	No. of posts*
सलाहकार (तकनीकी) – डिजाइन सेल Advisor (Technical) - Design Cell	01
संयुक्त सलाहकार (तकनीकी) – डिजाइन सेल Joint Advisor (Technical) - Design Cell	01
संयुक्त सलाहकार (आरओबी) – आरओबी सेल Joint Advisor (ROB) - ROB Cell	02

*पदों की संख्या भा.रा.रा.प्रा. की आवश्यकता के अनुसार बढ़ाई या घटाई जा सकती है।
*Number of posts may increase or decrease as per requirement of NHAI.
2. पात्रता मानदंड और अन्य शर्तें भा.रा.रा.प्रा. की वेबसाइट **www.nhai.gov.in** पर देखे जा सकते है।
Eligibility criteria and other conditions may be seen on NHAI's website **www.nhai.gov.in**
3. **आवेदन जमा करना :** इच्छुक और पात्र उम्मीदवार अपने आवेदन **09.04.2026 (सायं 06:00 बजे तक)** भा.रा.रा.प्रा. की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध लिंक के माध्यम से केवल ऑनलाइन जमा करें।
Submission of Applications: Applications are to be submitted online only. Eligible candidates may apply online on the link provided on the website of NHAI by **09.04.2026 (upto 06:00 PM)**.
4. इस विज्ञापन के संबंध में शुद्धिपत्र/अनुशेष/निरस्तीकरण, यदि कोई होगा तो, उसे केवल भा.रा.रा.प्रा. की वेबसाइट पर ही प्रकाशित किया जाएगा।
Corrigendum/Addendum/Cancelation to this advertisement, if any, shall be published on NHAI website only.

Perfect10

BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University, Lonere
Tal. Mangaon, Dist. Raigad - 402103, Maharashtra

RE-ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE 120 REGULAR TEACHING POSITIONS

In view of the updates as per Government Resolution No. Sankirna-2025/E-860421/Vishi-1 dated 11th February, 2026 the University is issuing this re-advertisement for the 120 teaching positions.

Candidates who had applied earlier in response to the previous advertisement dated 07th July, 2025 need not pay the application fees again (but required to enter details of the earlier payment). However, they will have to submit a fresh application online and submit the hard copy of their application with the supporting documents.

Schedule for Application:

Starting of online application through **https://dbaturec.samarth.edu.in**	15th March, 2026
Last date for submission of application online	4th April, 2026
Last date for submission two hard copies (by post or in person) of the completed application along with the supporting documents to: **The Registrar, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University, Lonere, Tal. Mangaon, Dist. Raigad - 402103, Maharashtra.**	6th April, 2026 (up to 5.00 p.m.)

Detailed advertisement is available on the University website (www.dbatu.ac.in).

Sd/-
Registrar,
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University, Lonere-Raigad

Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND SPORTS
State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru - 560001.
Tel : 080-22215601, 22211246, Fax: 080 22215602

No: DYES/AP/ES/280/2025-26 **Date: 10.03.2026**

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

Subject: The Assistasnt Executive Engineer, Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bangalore-560 001, KARNATAKA INDIA invites Tender to take up the various works at Bengaluru Mandya districts, Karnataka through E- Procurement Portal.

Particulars : 1) Outdoor Stadium Roof Repair and Tower Light Stand Repair at Sri Kanteerava Outdoor Stadium. Amount put to Tender : **Rs 236.69 Lakhs,** EMD : **Rs 3,55,044.** Last Date and Time for Submission of bid: **30.03.2026 Time16:30 Hrs,** Last Date and Time for Opening of technical bid : **01-04-2026 Time 11:00 Hrs. 2)** Construction of indoor Stadium and developement works at Nagamangala Taluk Stadium. Amount put to Tender : **Rs 194.80 Lakhs,** EMD : **Rs 2,92,194.** Last Date and Time for Submission of bid: **26.03.2026 Time16:00 Hrs,** Last Date and Time for Opening of technical bid : **27-03-2026 Time 16.30 Hrs.**

The Tender shall be submitted through e-Procurement Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Vendors need to register in the e-Procurement Portal to submit their bids online. The tender document can be viewed free of cost from the e-Procurement Portal.

Additional information may be obtained during office hours at the above mentioned Address.

Sd/-
Assistant Executive Engineer
Department of Youth Empowerment and sports
[TENDER INVITING AUTHORITY]

DIPR/CP/6171/NR/2025-26

National Highways Authority of India
(Ministry of Road Transport and Highways)

पैनल बनाने हेतु सूचना/Notice for Empanelment

भारतीय राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण (भा.रा.रा.प्रा.) स्वतंत्र **(1) वरिष्ठ सड़क सुरक्षा लेखा परीक्षक एवं टीम लीडर और (2) सड़क सुरक्षा सहायक** के पैनल हेतु आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है।

NHAI invites applications for Empanelment of Independent **(1) Senior Road Safety Auditor & Team Leader and (2) Road Safety Assistant.**

2. पात्रता मानदंड और अन्य शर्तें भा.रा.रा.प्रा. की वेबसाइट **www.nhai.gov.in** पर देखे जा सकते है।
Eligibility criteria and other conditions may be seen on NHAI's website **www.nhai.gov.in**

आवेदन जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि: 07.04.2026 (सायं 06:00 बजे तक)
Last date for submission of application: 07.04.2026 (upto 06:00 PM)

3. इस विज्ञापन के संबंध में शुद्धिपत्र/अनुशेष/निरस्तीकरण, यदि कोई होगा, तो, उसे केवल भा.रा.रा.प्रा. की वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशित किया जाएगा।
Corrigendum/Addendum/Cancellation to this advertisement, if any, shall be published on NHAI website only.

BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS

एसजेवीएन लिमिटेड SJVN Limited
(भारत सरकार एवं हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार का संयुक्त उपक्रम)
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of H.P.)
CIN No. L40101HP1988GOI008409

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

NIT No: SJVN/CC-Delhi/LO/C&P/4462 **Date: 11.03.2026**

SJVN Limited hereby invites **ONLINE** bids from the eligible bidders for "Housekeeping and allied services with 15 Nos. Manpower (14 Semiskilled and 1 Skilled Supervisor) for SJVN Limited office located at East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi for a period of 12 months". The NIT Document can be downloaded from the websites **www.sjvn.nic.in, www.eprocure.gov.in and GEM portal (Bid No. GEM/2026/B/7334410 dt 9/3/2026) from 09.03.2026 to 30.03.2026 till 14:00 Hrs (IST).** The Bid is to be submitted ONLINE on the GEM Portal i.e. **https://gem.gov.in.** The prospective bidders are requested to remain updated through above mentioned websites for any clarification or notification concerned with this NIT, as no further information will be published in respect of this NIT through any other media.

Last Date & Time for submission of bids : 30.03.2026 till 14:00 Hrs
Date &Time of opening of bids : 30.03.2026 at 15:00 Hrs
Manager (C&P) 6th Floor, Tower1,
NBCC Office Complex, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi-110023 Ph.- 011-61901953

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
CIN : U41000KA2016SGC097260
Regd. Office: No. 148, Embassy Square Road,
Bengaluru-560 001. Ph: 080-22289966 / 22256688
Fax: 080-22264477 Website: **https://vjnl.karnataka.gov.in.**
email: **vjnlfinance@gmail.com**
No:VJNL/2025-26/SE0156/CALL-2 Date: 11.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

INVITATION OF COMPETITIVE QUOTATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITORS FOR FY 2025-26, 2026-27 AND 2027-28

Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited (VJNL) registered under Companies Act 2013 and it is a wholly owned Government of Karnataka undertaking entrusted with construction and maintenance of major and medium irrigation projects across the state of Karnataka. The Registered Office of the Company is at Bengaluru and Central Office at Chitradurga. At present it has 24 offices situated in various districts of Karnataka State.

The Company invites tender for carrying out Internal Audit at the above offices for the financial years 2025-26, 2026-27and 2027-28.

Bids are invited from eligible Chartered Accountant/Cost Accountants who possesses the prescribed pre-qualification as notified in the Request for Quotation (RFQ) document. All bids are accepted only through the e-procurement portal and the intending bidders are requested to acquaint themselves with the procedure in this regard and also download the bid document from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Please note, henceforth, any changes in the tender notification will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on e-portal / VJNL website i.e., **https://vjnl.karnataka.gov.in.**

The calendar of events is as follows:

(1) Date of uploading RFQ document: **11.03.2026. (2)** Last date / time for submission of bid: **18.03.2026 until 5.00 p.m. (3)** Date / time of opening of Technical bid: **20.03.2026 at 11.30 a.m. (4)** Date / time of opening of Financial bid: **30.03.2026 at 4.30 p.m.**

Sd/- Managing Director

BHARATPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Sr. No :- Tech/BDA/2025-26/92 - 103 Date :- 07/03/2026

EXPRESSION OF INTREST

Prepration Of Consultancy services for Conservation, Upliftment and Beautification of Dariya mohan and Balanand Temple with façade Development and Illumination at Kila Road, Bharatpur, Rajasthan"

The Bharatpur Development Authority (BDA), Bharatpur Invites proposal for Preparation Of Consultancy Services For Consultancy services for Conservation, Upliftment and Beautification of Dariya mohan and Balanand Temple with façade Development and Illumination at Kila Road, Bharatpur Rajasthan" Detailed of EOI, eligibility criteria schedule and condition can be seen on **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** from dated 09.03.2026 10:00 AM to 24.03.2026 at 6.00 pm.

UBN No. – WAQ2526WSRC00310 **Executive Engineer**
Raj.Samwad/C/25/22105 **BDA, Bharatpur**

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN on behalf of our client that, we are investigating the title of land owned by B.S. Nesara, being the present owner of: (i) land measuring 39 (thirty nine) guntas in Survey No. 34 ("Item No. I"), (ii) land measuring 2 (two) acres 20 (twenty) guntas and 1 gunta kharab in Survey No. 35 ("Item No. II"), both situated at Acharalahalli Village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru ("Schedule Property"). Item Nos. I and II are hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Schedule Property" and individually bounded as follows:

Item No	East by	West by	North by	South by
I	Land bearing Survey No.35	Land bearing Survey No.33	Land bearing Survey No.25	Land bearing Survey No.33
II	Land bearing Survey No.36	Land bearing Survey No.32, 33 & 34	Land bearing Survey No.25 (Lake)	Land bearing Survey No.36 and Gulyanandhigundha village Boundary

Any person(s) or entity(ies) having or claiming any form of right, title, claim, benefit, lien, demand or interest in the Schedule Property or any part thereof, by way of or under any sale, transfer, exchange, assignment, agreement, contract, sale, outgoings, development rights, Will, release, relinquishment, decree or order of any Court of Law or a Tribunal or revenue or statutory authority or an award passed by arbitration, encumbrance, mortgage (equitable or otherwise), lease, lien, charge, maintenance, license, gift, inheritance, succession, hypothecation, undivided share, possession, easement, trust, bequest, sub-lease, under-lease, tenancy, sub-tenancy, leave and license, easement, options, right of first refusal or right of first offer or pre-emption or encumbrance of whatsoever nature, covenant or condition, partnership, trust, family arrangement / settlement, or other disposition, or under any lis pendens, injunction, attachment, decree or order or award passed by any Court of Law or a Tribunal or revenue or statutory authority or by an arbitration tribunal or an arbitrator or a forum or otherwise howsoever, or under any agreement, deed, document or power of attorney or any objection(s) of any manner whatsoever is hereby required to inform of the same in writing with notarized/certified true copies of documentary proof in support thereof, to the undersigned at their under mentioned address within 7 (seven) days from the date of this notice, failing which it will be presumed that the title of the Schedule Property is clear, valid and marketable and no one has any rights/ title/ interest/ claim/ demand whatsoever on it. Any claims without supporting documents shall not be entertained.

Please mark your envelope with the superscription [Notice – Nesara Land].
Date: March 11, 2026 Place: Bengaluru
Vidyavathi Kowshik, Kayara Legal, 40, Prestige Tudor, Lavelle Road,
Bangalore – 560001. Email: vidyavathi.kowshik@kayaralegal.com

Indian Oil Corporation Limited
CIN – L23201MH1959GOI011388
Regd. Office: 'IndianOil Bhavan', G-9, Ali Yavar Jung Marg, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051
Tel: 022-26447327; Email Id: investors@indianoil.in; Website: www.iocl.com

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

SPECIAL WINDOW FOR RE-LODGEMENT OF TRANSFER REQUESTS OF PHYSICAL SHARES

Pursuant to SEBI Circular dated **30th January 2026**, shareholders are informed that a special window has been re-opened only for re-lodgement of transfer deeds along with physical share certificates which were lodged prior to the deadline of 1st April 2019 and were rejected/returned/not attended to, due to deficiency in the documents/ process or otherwise.

This facility of re-lodgement will be available to the eligible physical shareholders till **4th February 2027**. Shareholders are requested to re-submit their transfer requests along with physical share certificates with our Registrar and Share Transfer Agent, KFin Technologies Ltd whose details are given below:

KFin Technologies Ltd.
Unit: Indian Oil Corporation Limited
Financial District, Nanakramguda,
Selenium Tower B, Plot number 31 & 32,
Hyderabad – 500032.
Toll Free No.- 1800 309 4001
E-mail Address : einward.ris@kfintech.com

For Indian Oil Corporation Limited
Sd/-
(Kamal Kumar Gwalani)
Company Secretary

Place: Mumbai
Date : 10th March 2026

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AYURVEDA
Deemed To Be University
(Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India)
Jorawar Singh Gate, Amer Road, Jaipur-302002 (Rajasthan)
Phone No. 0141-2635816, 2635709

File No. F1/2022/NIADU/PhD Ent-26-27 Date-09-03-2026

NOTIFICATION

Applications for Ph.D. (Ayurveda) Programmes for Academic Session 2026-27

Applications are invited in the prescribed format for Ph.D. Programmes for below mentioned categories:

A. For Written Entrance Examination for admission in NIA Regular Ph.D. Programmes in all the 14 Departments (Joint Ph.D. Degree Programme and Single Centre) for the academic session 2026-27.
B. For Interview of UGC-NET/JRF/SLET/AYUSH-NET/CSIR-NET Qualified candidates.

The brochure containing details of entrance test along with link of application form is available on Institute website **www.nia.nic.in.**

Eligible candidates can submit the application form with supporting documents and prescribed fees to NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AYURVEDA on the link provided on Institute website **www.nia.nic.in.**

Last dates for receiving applications is **13/04/2026** 5:00 PM. Applications received after the last date will not be entertained.

REGISTRAR

TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026

WAR WINDS TOSS BILLIONAIRES' FORTUNES LIKE STOCKS

West Asia war jitters ripple through global markets, swelling some billionaire fortunes while erasing billions from others

MUSK RIDES THE VOLATILITY WAVE

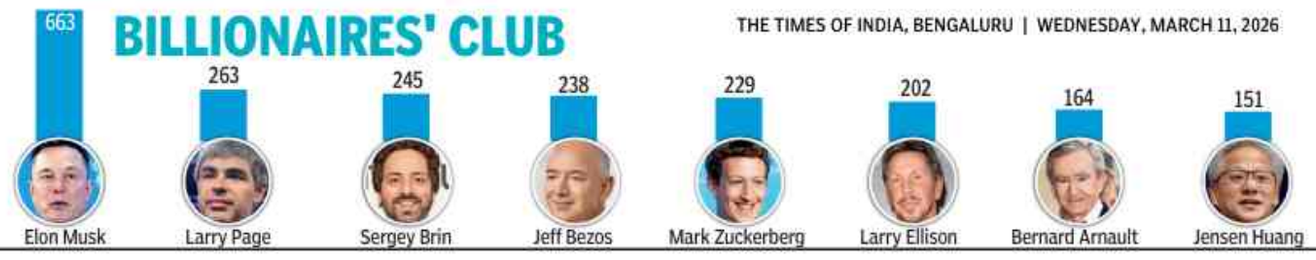
Elon Musk remains far ahead at $663bn, adding $1.4bn in a day and $43.7bn in 2026 so far, the biggest YTD gain among the top 10

TECH TITANS DOMINATE THE WEALTH LADDER

Eight of the top 10 billionaires come from technology, **underscoring how market swings in tech stocks drive global wealth shifts**

BILLIONAIRES' CLUB

All figures in $bn



Source: Bloomberg Billionaires Index

Oracle's Ellison takes the biggest hit
Larry Ellison has lost the most wealth ($45bn YTD) this year among the top 8

Mukesh Ambani ranks 18th with a net worth of $94bn. Despite a recent gain of $385mn, his overall wealth is down $13.8bn in 2026

Gautam Adani: Adani stands 22nd with $75.6bn, with wealth down $8.8bn this year

Gas Crunch Threatens To Choke Production As Operating Costs Rise | Mkts Look Up In Hope | Oil Prices Hold Key To Eco Factors

India Inc feels W Asia turmoil tremors

Reeba Zachariah, G Balachandar & Vaitheeswaran B | TNN

Mumbai/Chennai: Shockwaves from US and Israeli strikes on Iran may seem distant from India's shores, but for Indian industry, the impact is already hitting home. Gas curbs, production cuts, export delays, and rising operating costs are rippling through fertiliser plants, ceramic kilns, sanitary ware units, textile mills, and tyre factories.

In Gujarat, Triveni Iron and Steel Industries is bracing for a 50% production cut, as its heavy reliance on West Asian liquefied natural gas (LNG) leaves it exposed to supply disruptions.

Jindal Stainless expects delays in steel shipments as the conflict snarls trade routes and logistics. Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals (MRPL) has temporarily suspended fuel exports while struggling to secure crude oil cargoes amid rising uncertainty.

Industry executives warn that tensions in major oil- and gas-producing regions can quickly disrupt global energy supply chains. MS Banani, joint managing director of Axiom Gas Engineering, recalls that similar disruptions during the Iraq war drove crude prices to nearly $140 a barrel, triggering sharp increases in LNG, LPG, petrol, and diesel. The current conflict involving Iran, Israel, and the US is again placing pressure on Gulf supply routes, creating procurement challenges, delays, and rising costs for Indian importers, Banani said.

To manage the crisis, India has invoked emergency powers to prioritise LPG supplies for households. Fertiliser plants, tea processors, and other priority sectors will receive LNG first.

Energy giants like Reliance Industries (RIL) and ONGC have been ordered to maximise LPG output while restricting its use for petrochemical manufacturing. RIL said it is ramping up LPG production at its Jamnagar refining and petrochemical complexes to stabilise domestic supplies. Natural gas from its KG-D6 basin will be diverted to priority sectors, in line with government directives and national energy priorities, it added.

V K Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Investments, said that while the situation is manageable for now, prolonged disruptions could lead to physical shortages affecting transport, hospitality, and industrial sectors. LPG supplies are being prioritised for households, but if Brent crude remains above $90 a barrel, businesses could face mounting cost pressures. Tyre manufacturers are also under strain, as crude-oil derivatives like synthetic rubber and carbon black account for nearly 70% of their raw materials.

Erratic LPG supply is already affecting forging companies. "We are seeing some shortages in LPG, which is essential for running our operations, as private players are struggling with supplies," said the CEO of a forging manufacturer. With 80–85% of LPG directed to domestic households, commercial and industrial users have a limited share, leaving them vulnerable during disruptions.

Apparel exporters, already battered by months of punitive US tariffs, are grappling with rising costs.

In Tiruppur, more than 450 small and medium dyeing units rely on gas-fired boilers and are now struggling to maintain production amid spiking raw material prices, including caustic soda, acetic acid, sodium sulphate, and ferroxide.

Gandhi Rajan, head of the dyeing units' owners' association, said most units typically have gas reserves for about 15 days, beyond which shutdowns become inevitable.

INDUSTRY BRACES FOR IMPACT

- Govt has invoked emergency powers to **divert nearly 80-85% LPG supplies from industrial users to households.** Among industrial users, fertiliser plants, tea processors and other priority sectors will receive LNG first
- Erratic supply of commercial LPG cylinders is already affecting restaurants and industrial establishments depending on pvt suppliers
- With heavy reliance on West Asia LNG, Triveni Iron and Steel Industries is bracing for a 50% production cut
- Jindal Stainless expects delays in steel shipments to the region as strife snarls trade routes & logistics
- Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals (MRPL) has temporarily suspended fuel exports as it struggles to secure crude oil cargoes
- RIL and ONGC prohibited from using LPG for petrochem manufacturing and ordered to maximise LPG output
- Supply disruptions during Iraq war drove crude prices to nearly $140 a barrel, with sharp rise in LNG, LPG, petrol and diesel

D-St takes cues from Don, sensex up 640pts

US President's Hint That West Asia Crisis May Subside Soon Also Sees Brent Crude Moderate

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Stocks reversed two consecutive sessions of strong sell-offs on Tuesday after traders interpreted statements made by US President Donald Trump early in the day as an indication that the war in West Asia may end soon, slowly bringing back supply chains in the region to normalcy. As a result, sensex rallied 640 points or 0.8% to close at 78,206 points while Nifty on NSE ended 234 points or 1% up at 24,262 points.

After Trump, during a press conference, indicated that a solution to the turmoil could be reached soon in West Asia, US markets reversed early losses and closed higher. On Tuesday, Asian markets, including in India, picked up cues and rallied. European and the US markets also showed gains in late and early trades respectively.

The direction of crude prices on Tuesday was one of the strongest indicators that something positive could be in store between the US-Israel combine and Iran.

Brent crude, after hitting a multi-year high at almost $120/barrel last week, was trading at just above the $85 mark on Tuesday.

According to Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Investments, Dalal Street mirrored the improvement in global sentiment after the sharp decline in crude oil prices, following comments from Trump hinting at a possible end to the war. "However, elevated levels of India VIX continued to signal underlying uncertainty in the market," Nair said.

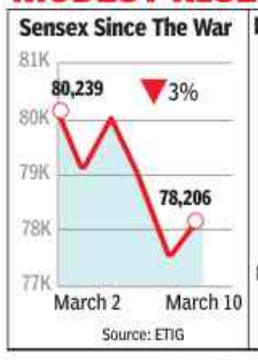
"In the near term, markets are likely to remain in the woods, with investors closely monitoring signs of geopolitical de-escalation. Greater clarity could trigger value buying in sectors that have been most affected by the recent volatility."

In addition to rising India VIX, market players also pointed out that foreign funds were net sellers on Tuesday, taking out Rs 4,673 crore, BSE data showed. The day's rally added nearly Rs 6 lakh crore to investors' wealth with BSE's market capitalisation now rising to a little over Rs 447 crore.

Of the 30 sensex stocks, 24 closed with gains. Among the gainers, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and M&M contributed the most.

MODEST RISE BRINGS RELIEF

Sensex Since The War



Source: ETIG

How Global Markets Fared Tuesday

	(% change)
Nikkei (JP)	2.9
Dax (DE)	2.6
ESTX 50 (EUR)	2.3
Hang Seng (HK)	2.2
FTSE 100 (UK)	1.8
Sensex (IN)	0.8
Shanghai SE (CN)	0.7
Nasdaq (US)	0.7
NYSE Composite (US)	0.6
S&P 500 (US)	0.5
Dow Jones (US)	0.5

US Data as of 21:30 IST

RBI eases dividend distribution norms

Mumbai: RBI eased a key clause in its final bank-dividend rules by revising how "Adjusted Profit After Tax" is calculated. The regulator earlier proposed deducting 100% of net non-performing assets from profits. Final norms allow banks to deduct only 50% of net NPAs while distributing dividends of up to 75% of post-tax profits. The rule applies from FY27. TNN

Supply woes, higher oil prices may hit growth, fuel inflation: Economists

Shiva.Rajora@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The conflict in West Asia, along with disruption in supply chains and higher oil prices may result in India's growth being hit by 15-40 basis points (bps) next financial year (2026-27), with inflation too expected to accelerate if the tension persists for a few more weeks, economists said.

Rajani Sinha, chief economist, CARE Ratings said that if oil prices remain elevated in the range of $100-120 for the full year, with no end to the conflict in sight, it might shave off up to 40 bps from the GDP growth to 6.8% (100 basis points equal a percentage point).

"Impact on retail inflation is contingent on whether increased fuel prices are passed on to the consumers. Govt will make all efforts to keep them unchanged, and oil companies too can bear the cost to an extent. Inflation may cross the 5% mark in FY27 from our current estimate of 4.3%," said Sinha.

IDFC Bank chief economist Gaura Sengupta said that market prices for petrol and diesel are likely to remain unchanged in the short-term and oil retailers will have to bear the brunt of the disturbance. "In our assessment, even a 10% rise in consumer prices of these important commodities, has a potential to drag overall growth by 15bps from our current estimates. This will also push up inflation by 30bps. Higher gold prices are expected to fuel core inflation though," she added.

After the latest GDP estimates, chief economic adviser V Anantha Nageswaran on Feb 27 had raised the growth forecast for FY27 to 7-7.4%. The Economic Survey tabled in Parliament in Jan has projected headline inflation for first and second quarters of FY27 at 3.9% and 4%, respectively.

Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis says he is estimating a 40-50 bps rise in inflation, arguing that disruption in supply chains and high fuel cost will lead to surge in the input costs. "As of now, oil prices are highly volatile. Prolonged volatility and subsequent price transmission may push inflation up to 4.5%. This takes away any room for any further rate cuts and RBI is expected to keep the policy rate unchanged for the next fiscal," he said.

Sakshi Gupta, principal economist at HDFC Bank, said if average crude price rises by 10% next year, retail inflation will be 20-30 bps higher, while GDP growth may be 20-25 bps lower than the projected 7.2%.

"Everything is contingent on the extent and duration of the conflict and consequent implications on domestic investment, inflation and external trade," said ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar.

CRUDE CONCERNS

CARE Ratings | GDP growth may take **40 bps** hit to **6.8%**, if oil prices remain elevated in range of **$100-120**, with no end to conflict in sight

IDFC Bank
Even a **10%** rise in consumer prices of petrol, diesel, has a potential to drag overall growth by **15 bps** from our current estimates. This will also push up inflation by **30 bps**

HDFC Bank
If average crude price rises by **10%**, retail inflation will be **20-30 bps** higher. GDP growth may be **20-25 bps** lower than projected **7.2%**

Looking to help exporters on insurance front: Goyal

New Delhi: Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said govt is looking to extend support to exporters on the insurance front to help them deal with the ongoing West Asia crisis.

He said that an inter-ministerial group is keeping tabs on developments on a daily basis and is interacting with exporters.

The Customs department has come out with norms for dealing with export cargo returning to Indian ports due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and disruptions in maritime routes amid the West Asia crisis.

"Similarly, we are looking for developing some new schemes like insurance support... We are consulting ECGC (Export Credit Guarantee Corporation) and other departments on that," Goyal said.

He said govt is looking at ways to help exporters whose goods have been shipped but are facing problems. Govt is monitoring the situation 24 hours, he added. AGENCIES

Feb sees SIP flows dip 3.7%, gold, silver ETF flows soften

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Resilient investors continued putting money in the stock and debt markets through Feb despite market volatility. Combined with some mark-to-market gains, the total assets under management (AUM) of the mutual fund (MF) industry hit a new all-time high at over Rs 82 lakh crore. During the month, gross flows through systematic investment plans (SIPs), showed a 3.7% dip but top industry players said that was because Feb had at least three less days for flows to come in than in any other month. This, according to some industry estimates, may perk up the March numbers.

Despite sharp slide in the markets in the first 10 days of March, industry players are confident about the evolving nature of retail investors who have matured over time to not panic due to market volatilities and are also patient with long term wealth creation as the prime objective.

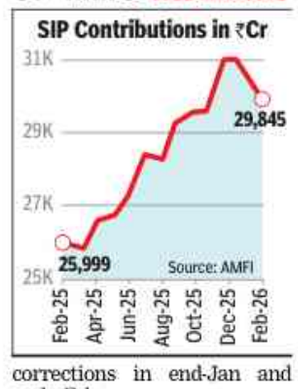
Feb saw a marked dip in inflows in gold and silver ETFs, after they witnessed sharp price corrections in end-Jan and early-Feb.

At the close of Feb, total AUM of the fund industry was Rs 82 lakh crore, up about 1% from Rs 81 lakh crore in Jan, data released by AMFI showed. The month also saw the net inflow in equity funds at Rs 25,978 crore, its 60th consecutive month of net inflows.

During the month, gross SIP flows were Rs 29,845 crore, Rs 1,157 crore lower from Rs 31,002 crore recorded in Jan. In Feb, net sales remained stable at Rs 27,385 crore compared to Rs 27,804 crore in Jan.

60th Mth Of Net Inflows

SIP Contributions in ₹Cr



Exporters flag banking concerns

New Delhi: Exporters on Tuesday flagged issues such as possible delays in payments due to the ongoing West Asia crisis during a meeting with the department of financial services, which assured them to look into the matters, according to Fieo. Delays in shipments due to rerouting of vessels, particularly because of disruptions in the Red Sea region and avoidance of the Suez Canal, are likely to create several banking and trade finance challenges for Indian exporters. Agencies. AGENCIES

Rupee gains as oil slips but volatility remains high

Mumbai: The rupee rebounded Tuesday, closing at 91.81 against the dollar, up 54 paise from Monday as oil cooled and equities rebounded amid President Trump's assurances of West Asia risk being short-lived. Brent crude plunged to below $90.8 a barrel after briefly nearing $120 a day earlier, easing pressure on India's import bill and lifting the domestic currency.

Dealers said falling crude, RBI dollar sales, amid importer hedging supported the rupee, though volatility remained elevated. The rupee opened firm, strengthened through the session on RBI support, and settled over 0.5% stronger.

"Rupee traded stronger with gains of 0.5%, moving back above 92, as the dollar index slipped below 99 and crude oil prices corrected sharply. Oil, which had surged close to $119–$120, dropped significantly toward the $85 zone, easing pressure on India's import bill and providing support to the domestic currency," said Jateen Trivedi, analyst with LKP Securities. TNN

Banks shielded, oil spike may hurt: Moody's

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Rating agency Moody's Ratings and its Indian affiliate Icra said the West Asia conflict should have limited near-term impact on India's banking system, though a prolonged oil spike could dent growth and lift inflation.

Moody's baseline view sees banking outlook stable and real GDP growth at 6.4% in FY27; credit/deposit growth broadly aligned, loan growth in low-to-mid teens, asset quality strong on healthy corporate balance sheets and low leverage.

Profitability is likely to improve as banks pass 2025 rate cuts to deposits, widening margins. Capital buffers steady as internal accruals match capital use.

"If it's a matter of few weeks... and oil maybe settles around $80–85 versus last year's Brent average of $69, the economic impact will not be that much," said Amit Pandey of Moody's.

A prolonged conflict pushing oil to $100+ could trim growth by 1 percentage point and lift inflation/interest rates by about 1.5–2 percentage points from earlier forecasts. Risks also stem from India's large Gulf diaspora—about a crore people sending remittances—and from Indian companies, including infrastructure firms, with regional exposure. Still, Gulf economies hold strong fiscal buffers and often deploy counter-cyclical support. Icra estimates bank credit growth at 13.5–14% in FY26 which would be around 11.5% in FY27 if the conflict's impact stays limited, said Karthik Srinivasan, adding that a prolonged crisis may force a review.

Icra's NBFC outlook sees their loan book growth at 17–19% in FY26 and 16–18% in the next fiscal.

'GDP LIKELY TO RISE 6.4% IN FY27'

- Moody's **baseline view sees real GDP growth at 6.4% in FY27**; credit/deposit growth broadly aligned and **loan growth in low-to-mid teens**
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Happiest Minds raises FY27 growth outlook to 12.5%

Bengaluru: Happiest Minds Technologies has revised its revenue growth outlook to 12.5% in constant currency for FY27, up from the earlier projection of 10%, citing strong traction from its AI-led strategy and strategic initiatives. Last year, the company outlined 10 strategic initiatives aimed at driving growth over a four-year period. These initiatives formed the foundation for a targeted transformation across its business operations. Ashok Soota, chairman and chief mentor at Happiest Minds, said: "We are leading from the front with our AI First strategy, which is already delivering measurable results and driving client transformations at scale. With this momentum, we are strongly positioned for sustained leadership in the AI-driven future of IT services." Co-chairman and CEO Joseph Anantharaju said the company is seeing broad-based growth across sectors. TNN

Govt seeks nod for ₹2.8L cr addl spend

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Govt on Tuesday sought Parliamentary approval for additional spend of over Rs 2.8 lakh crore, of which the cash outgo will be a little more than Rs 2 lakh crore, with a bulk of it going towards meeting the gold sovereign bond liability and meeting the higher food and fertiliser subsidy bill.

The biggest outgo of Rs 59,000 crore has been proposed on account of additional outgo towards the gold reserve fund for sovereign gold bonds. The finance ministry did not elaborate on the reasons for the expenditure, although it is seen to be on account of a sharp increase in prices of yellow metal.

Another Rs 30,000 crore will be earmarked for transfers to municipal bodies, while Rs 42,000 crore is proposed on account of higher food and fertiliser subsidies.

"Although the net cash outgo under the second supplementary demand for grants has been pegged at a sizeable Rs 2 lakh crore, this is likely to be offset to a large extent by expenditure savings across ministries.

For instance, govt of India's revenue expenditure needs to expand by a steep 30% year-on-year during Feb-March 2026 to meet the revised estimates for FY2026, entailing an incremental amount of Rs 2.3 lakh crore.

Consequently, we do not expect a material fiscal slippage on this account," said Icra principal economist Aditi Nayar.

Last Dec, the Centre had brought the first supplementary demands for grants seeking Parliament nod for gross extra spending of Rs 1.3 lakh crore, and net additional spending of Rs 41,455 crore.

IndiGo CEO resigns with immediate effect, 3 mths after schedule collapse

Saurabh.Sinha
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: IndiGo CEO **Pieter Elbers** Tuesday resigned from the airline with immediate effect, three months after the carrier's unprecedented domestic schedule collapse last Dec that had left lakhs of passengers stranded at airports across its network. Airline founder & MD Rahul Bhatia will be the interim CEO till a replacement is found.

Airline founder & MD Rahul Bhatia will be the interim CEO till a replacement is found

Making his disappointment about the Dec chaos clear, Rahul Bhatia said in an internal mail to employees sent on Tuesday: "What happened last Dec should never have taken place.... Our customers didn't deserve it and nor did all of you, especially the frontline employees who bore most of the brunt for no fault of theirs.... I wish to place on record my indebtedness to all my colleagues who carried the company's cross with grace and dignity, and ploughed through sleepless nights to restore IndiGo's operational integrity."

Signed as "Rahul alias ('Main Hoon Na')", the founder's mail to employees says: "I step into my expanded role of managing the affairs of IndiGo with a deep sense of responsibility not only to the company's customers and its shareholders, but to every employee who powers this airline. I see the resilience in the effort you put in, and I greatly value your dedication... fully committed to strengthening our culture, reinforcing operational excellence, and ensuring that we continue to deliver exceptional service and value to our customers."

The action, planned for some time by the airline brass, was waiting for operations to stabilise. "They have to run the airline and couldn't have removed those found responsible in one go," said senior govt official briefed on the matter. Elbers' resignation letter to Rahul Bhatia reads: "....due to personal reasons, I herewith submit my resignation from the position of CEO of IndiGo with effect from (Tuesday). I would request that notice period may be waived off.... If the company so desires, obviously, I will be available for any handover or transition otherwise."

'New norms to boost ease of biz'

▶ Continued from page 1

An official statement said that the list of sectors can be expanded. The move comes amid a push to create domestic manufacturing capability in sectors such as electronic components, where even Printed Circuit Boards used to make smartphones and other goods have to be imported from China.

Several Chinese companies are keen to invest via the joint-venture route, but the govt has been going slow due to lack of policy clarity on beneficial ownership. The cabinet decision is expected to clear the air for investors as well as the bureaucracy.

"It is expected that the new guidelines will provide clarity and ease of doing business in India, and facilitate investments which can contribute towards greater FDI inflows, access to new technologies, domestic value addition, expansion of domestic firms and integration with global supply chain," the press release said.

INDUSTRY UPBEAT

Industry representatives are upbeat. "Aligning the definition of beneficial ownership with the PMLA threshold of a 10% controlling stake provides investors with a clearer and more predictable compliance framework, which should boost confidence, particularly among PE and VC funds," said Sunil Kumar, a partner at consulting firm EY India.

AI Career Edge PODCAST

From Developer to AI Leader: How to Build a Future-Proof Career in the AI Era

Rafee Tarafdar
CTO, INFOSYS

Live on YouTube. Scan the QR or go to the URL to set a reminder

FRIDAY
Mar 13,
12 noon

Event page link:
https://bit.ly/AIcareeredge3

OR SCAN THE QR CODE

iToons — Ajit Ninan & Sunil Agarwal

Wednesday, March 11, 4pm - 5pm

Event page link:
https://bit.ly/aitechies18

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Ravindra Usmanpurkar
PARTNER, CYBER - DIGITAL TRUST & PRIVACY, DELOITTE INDIA

Vijay Rajagopal
COUNTRY HEAD, BFSI & FINTECH GO-TO-MARKET, AMAZON WEB SERVICES (AWS)

COOKIES

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Cookies are small text files that websites store on your device when you visit them. They help the site remember information about you, such as your login details, language preference or items in your shopping basket. This makes the website easier and faster to use when you return. For example, a cookie can keep you signed in so you do not have to enter your password again. Some cookies are essential for the site to work, while others track how people use the site to improve it. Because they collect data, many websites ask for your consent before storing cookies on your device.

THE WOMEN WRITING AI'S RULEBOOK

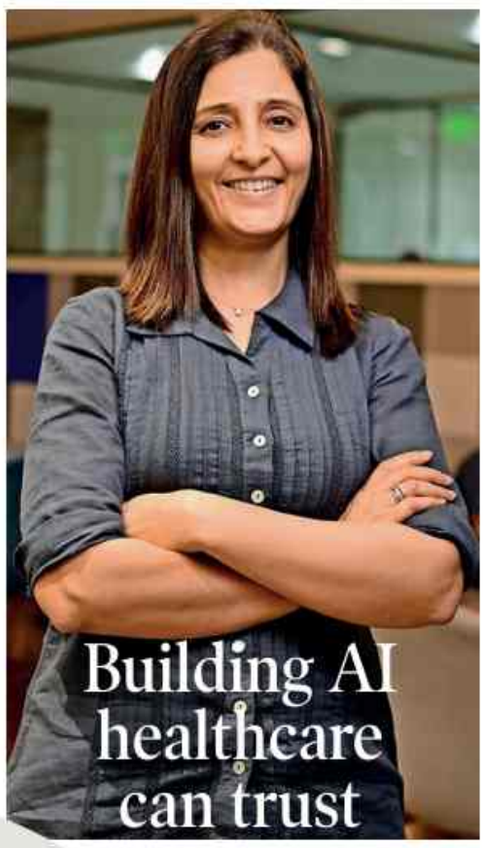
As artificial intelligence becomes woven into complex business systems—from software development to healthcare and retail—the challenge is no longer just building smarter models, but embedding safeguards into how they operate. Bias, accountability and oversight must be designed into the technology from the start. Behind some of this critical work are women leaders across global technology firms, shaping the architectures, governance frameworks and engineering practices that ensure AI systems remain transparent, reliable and responsible as they scale.

Non-coders are creating AI solutions

I am an engineer by education and have spent the last decade leading business and operations. A growing part of my role today involves shaping how AI is adopted, scaled, and governed across the business operations. Managing large, distributed operations means dealing with complex workflows, vast amounts of data, and high stakes decisions every day, and this is where AI has become a critical enabler. In the past, data and analytics felt intimidating to many business users. With the latest wave of AI tools, we can break down that complexity and offer simple, intuitive interfaces, while still delivering powerful insights. At Cognizant, embedding AI into everyday work is a leadership priority, guided by a clear AI charter that emphasises responsible adoption, strong data governance, ethical use, and risk management.

Practical applications include AI assisted resume screening, AI driven evaluation of skills and personalised learning paths. When deployed thoughtfully, these systems can improve speed, consistency, and transparency. Today, many of these AI solutions are created directly by business users with little or no programming background. This democratisation of AI is reshaping enterprise decision-making and reflects a broader trend across India's technology ecosystem. And in many cases, women leaders are steering AI strategy striking a balance between innovation and responsibility.

Vijayalakshmi Vikram | VP, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, CORE TECHNOLOGY & INSIGHTS, COGNIZANT



AI needs more women in leadership

As organisations embed AI across products, operations, and decision-making, representation in technology leadership directly influences how AI is shaped, governed, and scaled. While more women are entering STEM and digital careers, their presence in senior technology and AI leadership roles remains limited, even as the impact of these roles grows. Driving the AI charter at Wipro means ensuring that rapid adoption is matched with strong governance and ethical guardrails. Given how exponentially AI is transforming enterprises and society, avoiding gender bias requires deliberate action. This includes addressing historical bias in datasets, enforcing transparency across models, and embedding ethical guidelines into how AI systems are designed, deployed, and monitored. Leadership plays a critical role in setting these standards, which is why having women in decision-making roles is essential to shaping how technology is responsibly used. Inclusion must be intentional and built into leadership pathways. Increasing the representation of women in senior technology roles is both a strategic priority and a responsibility at Wipro. Supporting transitions into leadership requires reimagining work and creating frameworks that balance advocacy, sponsorship, and mentorship. As AI continues to transform our workplace and client ecosystems, my focus is on enabling women leaders to take influential positions, drive innovation, and shape the future of responsible AI at scale.

Sandhya Arun | CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER, WIPRO

AI is quickly becoming the intelligence layer of modern healthcare, but its real value lies in how responsibly it is designed and deployed. At CitiusTech, our AI charter is focused on building systems that clinicians can trust, regulators can evaluate, and health systems can scale with confidence. We are applying generative and agentic AI to simplify clinical workflows, unlock insights from complex health data, and strengthen decision support across care journeys. At the same time, governance is central to everything we build, thus ensuring explainability, strong data stewardship and safeguards against bias as these technologies evolve. For me, leading this charter is about aligning innovation with accountability. In healthcare, algorithms influence decisions that affect real lives, so the intelligence we design must reflect that responsibility. What is encouraging is the growing number of women technologists shaping this space, architecting platforms, leading AI teams and setting the standards for how healthcare AI will evolve.

Vaishali Nambiar | EVP, CITIUSTECH

Rethinking the enterprise for AI

The next era of enterprise advantage will be defined by how intelligently organisations design for AI, not how quickly they adopt it. As AI becomes embedded into the fabric of decision making, the real transformation lies in reimagining operating models that allow intelligence to scale responsibly, adapt continuously, and earn trust by design. Data integrity, governance, and architectural intent are no longer enablers, they are strategic imperatives that determine whether AI reshapes the enterprise or remains incremental. Much of my charter revolves around helping clients bridge this gap. We embed accountability, auditability, and drift detection directly into our AI pipelines so that trust is engineered into the system and not added later. Sustainability is also top of mind. Many business problems are solved more effectively through efficient, purpose-built models rather than large, compute-heavy systems. To make this real, we invest in GenAI upskilling and new ways of working so teams can shift from automation thinking to redesign thinking. When people understand how AI influences decisions, processes and risk, the organisation becomes far more agile. My approach is simple: create AI foundations that are resilient, responsible, and scalable so clients can unlock value across their end-to-end business with confidence.

Padmashree Shagrithaya | EVP AND HEAD OF INSIGHTS & DATA – INDIA, CAPGEMINI

The real test of enterprise AI is scale

Enterprise AI has crossed a critical threshold. The question is no longer whether organisations will adopt AI, but whether they can scale it responsibly without compromising performance, security, or trust. The real challenge lies in moving AI out of pilots and into the fabric of core business and engineering operations. In my role at IBM, I work with teams to turn AI ambition into enterprise reality. That means applying AI where complexity is highest and impact is measurable across the product development lifecycle (PDLC). By addressing legacy modernisation, engineering bottlenecks, and late-stage quality and security issues, AI has delivered productivity improvements of 45% across critical stages of development. Our AI-first developer productivity platform reflects this enterprise-first approach with security-first principles built-in to workflows, not added as a plug-in. Built for large, complex environments, it embeds AI directly into the development lifecycle automating repetitive work while freeing developers to focus on higher-value problem solving. Beyond engineering, we have tools that help enterprises integrate AI assistants and agents into everyday workflows, so insights translate into action and decision-making becomes more predictive and intelligent. Ultimately, while AI can amplify capability, it is human judgment, creativity, and leadership that determine how transformative that impact will be.

Madhuri Madhavan Pillai | PROGRAM DIRECTOR, DATA AND AI, IBM INDIA

Engineering AI for the real world

I lead the Advanced AI Applied Research Centre, where I focus on translating cutting-edge AI research into resilient, enterprise-grade platforms and solutions. My work aligns closely with Infosys' AI-first vision, helping global organisations move beyond pilots and experimentation to operationalising AI at enterprise scale. Working across our generative and agentic AI suite, I drive the development of composable AI architectures that integrate generative AI, agentic systems, and domain-specific copilots into enterprise platforms. My focus spans areas such as model governance, AI observability, secure data pipelines, and responsible AI frameworks - ensuring that enterprises can deploy intelligent systems that are reliable, transparent, and aligned with regulatory and risk requirements. I also work closely with clients to architect AI-native platforms and intelligent automation solutions that enhance decision-making, strengthen operational resilience, and product innovation. By combining applied research with engineering rigour, my work helps accelerate the adoption of emerging AI capabilities while maintaining strong governance and trust. I also collaborate with universities and research ecosystems to explore emerging AI paradigms and co-create new approaches that advance the frontiers of enterprise AI. I am a strong advocate for inclusive innovation and actively support greater representation of women in advanced technology roles and research-driven leadership.

Chetana Amancharla | LEADER – EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, INFOSYS

AI is at the core of business reinvention

I lead Accenture's Advanced Technology Centres Global Network, helping clients reinvent their businesses for growth by embedding advanced AI into IT modernisation. The conversations I'm having with clients today are no longer about experimentation - they're about tangible outcomes: stronger technology architectures, faster speed-to-market, better customer experiences, and building a future-ready workforce. For example, we built a custom AI platform for a global pharma company that reduced a multi week software rollout to a single day — accelerating drug development and enhancing regulatory compliance. Similarly, an AI-native platform we deployed for a retailer empowers in-store employees with real-time product insights and personalised recommendations for customers. As part of my role, I also shape the next generation of AI engineering talent at scale. Together, we are building capabilities that make AI a repeatable enterprise-wide delivery muscle across client engagements and industries, and developing smarter, faster, and more human-centered business solutions. What excites me most is not just the technology itself, but how we apply AI to empower people—keeping humans firmly in the lead.

Aditi Kulkarni | LEAD – GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY DELIVERY AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY CENTERS GLOBAL NETWORK, ACCENTURE

How to implement the DPDP Act

Sujit John & Akhil George | TNN

When you visit many global websites, you will instantly be prompted to accept or reject cookies. That's for you to tell the company whether you are ok with them collecting and using your data. If it's a website you frequent, there are advantages in accepting the cookies, because you may then not have to key in information about yourself every time, it'll offer you personalised recommendations and ads, pages may open faster. But then you may have to deal with frequent marketing messages, including maybe from the company's partners.

If you reject the cookies, you forego the advantages, but you will be saved from a lot of spam and marketing calls and messages.

The European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is the current gold standard in rules for collecting, processing, and storing personal data of individuals. India in 2023 passed a similar law – Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDPA) – and published detailed rules around it last year. Every entity handling personal data is mandated to implement it fully by May, 2027.

We had a discussion on what this entails for organisations, and we would urge you to listen to it on our Facebook or YouTube page – because it deeply impacts every organisation that collects personal data.

TIMES TECHIES WEBINARS
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The discussion was in association with ManageEngine, the division of Zoho Corporation that offers a comprehensive IT management portfolio. Sreedharan K S, director of compliance at Zoho Corp, noted that India's law, unlike the EU one, is only for digital data. He said the focus is on informed consent as the basis for processing of data. The govt, he said, has specified some situations where data can be processed without consent – like during disasters or public health emergencies.

Shreyashi Sengupta, partner for digital trust - technology risk automation at KPMG, said the Act really empowers users. "I'm allowed to exercise my consent, I need to be told what my information is being used for, and I have the right to terminate my consent and ask that my data be erased," she said. If there's a data breach, the law demands that affected parties be informed immediately.

> Culturally in India, we've not been so secretive about our personal information. That's why we get a lot of spam calls, marketing calls. Data is today like liquid gold. Those who have your data must use it responsibly, they must respect people's privacy. The govt really wants to foster this. DPDPA is a huge cultural shift for India, for organisations.
>
> **Shreyashi Sengupta** | PARTNER - DIGITAL TRUST- TECHNOLOGY RISK AUTOMATION, KPMG

> Businesses will have to inculcate a mindset change in employees, tell them they'll have to handle customers' personal data very differently now. Developers will have to be sensitised about data they collect to write code. If that data in the code is not necessary, it will reflect badly on the data minimisation practice. Basically, the data management practice will have to move to the design stage; it cannot be treated at the end of the product development lifecycle.
>
> **Sreedharan K S** | DIRECTOR OF COMPLIANCE, ZOHO CORPORATION

The Act also imposes strict, mandatory compliance requirements for the continued processing and storage of historical data. And organisations that have been around a long time will have lots of legacy data.

Mapping data

Enabling and dealing with all of this will require substantial effort, which explains why the govt has given some time to organisations to comply. Sreedharan noted that the effort will have to start with asset management – "you have to first discover where the data is, and then you have to map which data is personal, how important it is, whether it is required." This part will be painful. Shreyashi noted that the IT landscape in enterprises today is vast, and data would be in multiple places. "You need to track the content not only on one application, but what the effects of it are on downstream and upstream applications," she said.

Given how long the exercise would be, Shreyashi recommended that organisations focus first on customer facing applications, and user consent preference management. "Once that gets going, then look at things like breach notification. The data discovery process is a lifelong exercise, and that can keep happening in parallel," she said. Companies can build their own consent management platforms, or connect to independent consent managers that are emerging to provide centralised dashboards for users to give, manage, and withdraw consent across multiple platforms.

Multi-language capabilities will be essential on websites to guarantee informed consent. "Bhashini APIs could be used for this as a start," Sreedharan said, referring to the govt's AI-powered multilingual platform.

WHAT ORGANISATIONS HAVE TO DO

- First, discover where the data is – could be across many applications
- Map which data is personal and how important it is
- Build or link to consent management system; track all the consent that has been given by users/ data principals
- Ensure data lifecycle management, because data gets transmitted across multiple platforms. Determine how long to retain particular data
- Determine access control – who will act on the data
- Ensure logging and monitoring – important when data breach happens
- Understand how your third parties are processing the data
- Have a strong incident response plan

SNAP SHOTS

Hayden named GT coach

Former Australian opener Matthew Hayden has been named as the batting coach of Gujarat Titans for the upcoming Indian Premier League season, the franchise announced on Tuesday. Hayden joins the Titans set-up with an illustrious international career and expertise in modern-day T20 batting dynamics.

Manu tops women's 10m pistol trials: Olympian Manu Bhaker topped the finals of women's 10m pistol event in the national selection trials T3 (Group A) which concluded in Delhi on Tuesday. Trial two winner Sainyam finished second while Esha Singh secured the third spot in the eight-woman final. Manu maintained her lead from the end of the second series to finish on top with a total score of 246.1, which was a comfortable 4.2 points more than World Cup Final silver medallist Sainyam who finished with 241.9. Asian Championship gold and World Championship bronze medallist Esha finished third with a score of 220.6.

Indian youth boxers shine: Five Indian youth boxers registered wins on the third day of the World Boxing Futures Cup in Bangkok on Tuesday. Chandrika Pujari (50kg) secured a convincing 5-0 unanimous decision win over a Venezuelan boxer, while Joyshree Devi (54kg) continued her strong run with a Referee Stopped Contest (RSC) victory in the third round. In the men's division, L Ambekar (50kg) also advanced with a 5-0 win over his rival from Ecuador. Later, Gunjan (48kg) edged past her Italian contestant in a close 3-2 win, while Prachi (60kg) defeated the competitor from Ecuador.

Walker hangs up boots: Kyle Walker hung up his England boots on Tuesday, four matches shy of a landmark 100 caps, bringing the curtain down on a 14-year international career that saw him twice finish as a European Championship runner-up. The 35-year-old right back announced his retirement three months ahead of the World Cup, ending a journey that began with his debut in 2011 and included five major tournaments with the Three Lions.

Barca permitted to expand Camp Nou capacity: Barcelona have obtained permission to open their north stand and expand the capacity at their partially rebuilt Camp Nou home to nearly 63,000, the Spanish champions said Tuesday.

Nets push past Grizzlies: Day'Ron Sharpe tied a season high by scoring 19 points and the Brooklyn Nets pulled away for a 126-115 victory over the Memphis Grizzlies on Monday in New York.

Results: Cleveland 115 bt Philadelphia 101; Brooklyn 126 bt Memphis 115; Oklahoma City 129 bt Denver 126; Utah 119 bt Golden State 116; LA Clippers 126 bt New York 118.

Walking Thunder wins: Vittal Deshmukh-trained Walking Thunder— ridden by Ajeeth Kumar— won the Common Land Plate, the feature event of the Hyderabad races on Tuesday.

A REBIRTH AT THE EDEN

This week, twenty-five years ago, few were giving Indian cricket any hope. Bruised, sullied from the match-fixing scandal barely a year before and fighting to save face, here was a rudderless team hosting Steve Waugh's 'Invincibles'. What unfolded would change Indian cricket forever. TOI revisits a watershed moment...

Saumyajit.Basu@timesofindia.com

Eyes twinkling, she was bounding down the stairs when she suddenly stopped. The Eden Gardens ground floor lobby was swarming with journalists, officials and hangers-on as the Indian cricket captain, just a year into the job, walked out of the dressing-room, opened the glass door and waded into the delirious pool. Sourav Ganguly, yet to change out of his whites, looked up, gave Mrs Ganguly a beaming smile and said, rather loudly, "After the press conference..."

But his liquid gaze conveyed a deep-seated yet effusive joy that can never be lost in translation – even after 25 long summers. "Yes, we did it, love," he simply conveyed.

Memories bring diamonds and rust and that 30-second vignette and what preceded at the Eden Gardens remains the shining light in Indian cricket after the dust settled down long after Steve Waugh's "Invincibles" returned from the final frontier.

It was the summer of 2001. Indian cricket was gasping for fresh air to clear away the stench of the match-fixing scandal that refused to leave the white flannel. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had censured former captain Mohammed Azharuddin with a lifetime ban and Ajay Jadeja with a five-year banishment. Sachin Tendulkar spurned captaincy leaving a dangerous void that needed immediate attention. Under such undesirable circumstances, Ganguly was given the charge of a rudderless ship, a decision would go on to pay multi-fold dividend.

The team hit the ground running with a 3-2 One-day win over South Africa, and in came Steve Waugh's Australia for a three-Test series on the back of 15 consecutive Test victories. Comparisons with Donald Bradman's Invincibles of 1948 were part of the dinner table conversations and the Australians were on the Waugh-path in Mumbai. Finishing off the first Test match within three days, the Australians lived up to their reputation that preceded them taking their tally to 16.

Kolkata, just renamed two months before, was their next stop. Captain Waugh scored a century – his lone one in India – and his bowlers including the irrepressible Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne bared open India's usual failings, reducing them to a hard, long chase in the match.

A small blip or a bump on the road shook the Australians in the first innings. A sprightly young off-spinner, who grew up to become Bhajji, trapped Ricky Ponting and Adam Gilchrist in front off two successive balls and then scalped Shane Warne with the third to become the first ever Indian to notch up a Test cricket hat-trick. Harbhjahan Singh's youthful impudence (7/123) was rather unscripted allowing the packed audience to dance in the prospect of a fight.

The visitors failed to read the writing on the wall. So did the scribes in the press box who were mostly convinced of an Australian victory.

Ganguly's team wasn't up for a hiding without hitting back.

Waugh enforced a follow-on after India succumbed in the first innings and he rued his decision long after the last ball was bowled by none other than Harbhajan as the shadows lengthened on the Eden pitch three days on. Scoring a fighting half century amid the crumbling edifice of the Indian batting in the first innings, VVS Laxman earned a promotion to bat at No 3 when Waugh forced the follow-on.

Through Day Four Laxman and Rahul Dravid batted and chiselled a sporting sculpture that can draw parallels with Michelangelo's David if you are an art buff. If political history is your calling, you can think Stalingrad.

The match turned on its head. The magnitude of the fall may be grasped by the fact that it was the Australian wicket-keeper, Adam Gilchrist's first taste of defeat in Test cricket since his debut in Nov '99, 15 Tests prior.

The match turned, so did the fortunes of Indian cricket led by the redoubtable Ganguly who had left the visiting captain waiting pitchside before the toss, just to make a point. Taking the fight to the opposition, psychologically and tactically, was his brainchild, unheard of in Indian cricket annals.

TOI

MAGICAL! The Indian team rushes to Harbhajan Singh after he snares Ponting in the second innings at the Eden Gardens

A GRAB OF TOI'S DAY 1 REPORT OF THE TEST

Post-tea blues strike Aussies

Seven wickets fall in the final session as visitors collapse

Day 1 Brief Scores: Australia 291/8 in 90 overs: (Matthew Hayden 97, Michael Slater 42, Justin Langer 58, Steve Waugh 29*, Jason Gillespie 6*; Harbhajan Singh 30-6-66-7)

Before the start of the second Test at Eden Gardens, Kolkata in March 2001, Australia, with their ten-wicket triumph in the first Test at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai had extended their winning streak to sixteen, the best by any team in Tests. They had taken a 1-0 series lead.

Asked about the fallout of the reversal, the Australian captain said, "The sun will rise tomorrow." It really shone on Ganguly's India.

The third Test in Chennai was another streetfight and young Harbhajan ended up with 32 wickets helping India wrap up a Test series against the high and mighty. Though the impact of the series win wasn't felt immediately.

The Eden Test was the inflection point where Ganguly's team turned the corner. From the unflushed, odorous path to the tree-lined avenue of sporting greatness.

Twenty-five years on, the Eden Test match remains a dangling conversation without the superficial sighs.

I was born in Punjab, but made in Kolkata

By Harbhajan Singh

The other day I was having a chat with Matthew Hayden in Goa. I asked him, "Why did you play that shot in the first innings at Eden Gardens?" It was in the second session on Day 1, he was batting on 97, and absolutely dominating us. Haydos said he was feeling confident and wanted to reach his century with a big shot — but as luck would have it, he got caught in the deep by Hemang Badani. That was our first little window of opportunity in that historic Test.

Let's go back to what happened before that. With Anil Kumble out injured, I was selected for the first Test in Mumbai because I had 28 wickets in the Ranji Trophy that season. At Wankhede, even though we lost pretty badly, I got four wickets. If I hadn't got those wickets — three in quick succession — I might not have played at the Eden.

Those days, every game was a battle for survival for me and I came to Eden Gardens not very upbeat but focussed. It was a beautiful batting wicket on Day 1 and Australia started from where they had left off in Mumbai — till we got Hayden. Then I had Mark Waugh caught when he tried a cut. What happened post tea changed my life forever. Ricky Ponting, whom I had dismissed in Mumbai too, came in, probably a little short of confidence. I knew I had to attack the stumps. He went back to my delivery that skidded and got trapped in front. Next in was Adam Gilchrist and I wouldn't give him flight, because he was a good sweeper. This one also skidded in and he was leg-before.

And then arrived the magic moment. My aim was to keep it full to Shane Warne so that if he missed, I might get the leg-before. But the delivery was a little too full and he played a full-blooded flick. I will be forever indebted to what Sadagopan Ramesh did at forward short-leg. I always say that my hat-trick belongs as much to me as it does to Ramesh for that catch. He just extended his right hand and plucked it out of thin air.

From 252-4, the Aussies were now 252-6 and suddenly, we had hope. But Steve Waugh stood in the way. That Australian team just didn't give up and Steve scored a brilliant century — his only one in India. He batted superbly with Jason Gillespie to get 445.

When we batted, it seemed that it was a different pitch. Wickets kept falling as did the mood in the dressing-room as a series loss loomed. Laxman had scored 59 in the first innings batting at No. 6 and coach John Wright suggested that he should go up in the second.

I need not elaborate what happened through Day 4. I can tell you what was happening in the dressing-room. None of us were allowed to change our seats as VVS and Rahul Dravid had that incredible partnership. By the end of day, some of us were joking that it was our will-power and superstition that helped the two champions.

> **"Having fielded at short leg since my Ranji Trophy days, I thought about changing my position a little bit when Shane Warne came in to bat. He used to shuffle so much towards off-stump that anticipating a flick, I told myself to stand a little fine. It still gives me goosebumps that it panned out exactly the way I thought."**
> —Sadagopan Ramesh | on the hat-trick catch

The fifth day morning was a little fuzzy, as a junior I was not part of the decision-making process. I could understand that there was a lot of dilemma over declaration. When we took the field before lunch, we knew we had a chance.

I got Steve again, caught at leg-slip by Hemang Badani, which remains my favourite dismissal of the second innings. Sachin Tendulkar got those three wickets with some brilliant bowling, but Jason Gillespie was still standing.

Dada had fielders all around the bat and we kept attacking. Jason succumbed and then Glenn McGrath. Many ask me whether McGrath was out? Did it hit him a little too far outside the off-stump?

There was no DRS, no Hawk-eye, it was all what seemed with the naked eye. For me that was out the moment it hit his pad as he hadn't offered a shot, and I am happy that umpire SK Bansal thought on similar lines. Those 13 wickets in that Test match changed my life forever. I still maintain, I was born in Punjab, but made in Kolkata.

(Former India spinner Harbhajan Singh spoke to Dwaipayan Datta)

Sahil holds onto lead

Bengaluru: Karnataka's Sahil Punjabi emerged as the early leader at the end of first Block of six games in Round 1 of National Tenpin Bowling Championships, here on Tuesday.

In the men's division, all 120 bowlers completed their first block of 6 games in long oil condition. Sahil continues to lead at the end of Block 1. The competition will now move into the second block of six games on the medium oil condition, after which the top 40 bowlers based on the combined pinfall from 12 games (Blocks 1 and 2) will progress to Round 2.

TENPIN NATIONALS

Surendra Babu sits in second place with a total pinfall of 1204 pins at an average of 200.67, trailing Punjabi by just 12 pins. Defending champion Akaash Ashok Kumar of Karnataka holds third place with 1196 pins, while Ganesh NT of Tamil Nadu is close behind in fourth position with 1191 pins.

Leaderboard: Sahil Punjabi (Kar) 1216 (average 202.67), Surendra Babu (Kar) 1204 (200.67), Akaash Ashok Kumar (Kar) 1196 (199.33), Ganesh NT (TN) 1191 (198.50), Parthiban J (TN) 1180 (196.67), Shanmugananda (Kar) 1173 (195.50), Kishan R (Kar) 1168 (194.67), Ankit JG (Guj) 1164 (194.00), Vijay Punjabi (Kar) 1156 (192.67), Soban D (TN) 1141 (190.17). TNN

PALLAVI CLINCHES TWO GOLD MEDALS

Pallavi KM clinched two gold medals and a silver in the recently concluded National Para Badminton Championship in Hyderabad.

Medallists: Pallavi KM 2 gold (WS, WH-1) & (WD, WH1-WH-2); Silver (XD, WH1-WH2); **Ammu Mohan:** Silver (WD, WH1 - WH2) & 2 bronze (WS, WH2 & MXD WH1-WH2); **Dhaneshwari:** Silver (WD, SH6) & Bronze (WS, SH6); **Janani R:** Silver (WD, SH6); **Anusha OC:** Bronze (WS, WH1); **Siddanna Sahukar:** Silver (MS, WH2); **Jamshad M E:** Bronze (MD, SU-5); **Manjunath C:** Bronze (MD, WH1-WH2). TNN

BOWLING OVER BARRIERS

Braving Missiles And Miles, Trio Make It To Bengaluru

Chitrangada.C @timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: In times of war, when uncertainty clouds everyday life, sport can offer a rare refuge — a place of comfort for some and a brief escape from harsh realities for others. For three tenpin bowlers based in the Middle East, however, the sport was something more: a constant they refused to let go of.

TIDING OVER

Cancelled flights, travel chaos and rising tensions in the region did little to deter them. Instead, the trio endured a week-long ordeal before reaching Bengaluru — a day before the National tenpin bowling championships.

For siblings Ezaz Kasmani and Shabeen Kasmani, who are based in Al Khobar in Saudi Arabia, the journey began with confusion and panic at the airport. The duo had travelled to neighbouring Bahrain to catch a direct flight to Bengaluru, only to find themselves stranded.

"We were at the airport when the first missile hit. We saw a live missile going towards the US Air Base and were shocked," recalled Ezaz, who is representing Maharashtra in the competition. "Our flight was the first to get cancelled. People were running in and out of the airport, and so were we. But then we decided to sit and wait. We waited for almost six hours."

Even as others advised them to abandon their plans and return home, the siblings were determined. What followed was a frantic search for alternatives, cancelled bookings and a gruelling road journey.

With options running out, the pair eventually drove nearly 600 km to Riyadh after securing a flight to Lucknow. From there, they made their way to Bengaluru — completing a journey that had seemed almost impossible just days earlier.

"We were not thinking about the war at that moment. The only thing on our mind was the Nationals and somehow finding a way to reach Bengaluru," Ezaz said.

For Manohar Hedge, a 56-year-old bowler based in Dubai, the situation was equally uncertain. Having qualified for the tournament through the overseas trials held in Dubai, he was unsure if travel would even be possible as the conflict escalated.

"My family was worried because the war had started and I was leaving," said Hedge, who hails from Mangaluru. "But they supported me. They knew how much I love bowling, and that was the only thing on my mind — to reach Bengaluru."

After several late-night searches, Hedge managed to secure a last-minute ticket — though at more than double the usual price. Even then, the journey was far from smooth. Restrictions and delays forced him to travel light, carrying only three of his bowling balls instead of the usual six, and he also missed valuable practice time before the competition. Yet for all three players, the exhausting journey and uncertainty were worth it.

"It's not just about bowling," said 38-year-old Ezaz. "We can play anywhere in the world. But coming to the Nationals and representing our state means a lot. The federation and the players here are like family."

That sense of belonging — and the pride of wearing their state colours — was reason enough to brave the chaos. Even though they remain unsure about how they will return home after the tournament, their focus for now remains firmly on the lanes.

"Right now," they said in unison, "it's only about bowling."

Syed Asif

SPORTING TRIO: Ezaz Kasmani, Shabeen Kasmani & Manohar Hedge (right) in Bengaluru

> At home, we believe angels are listening to us, so we don't say anything negative. From the minute our journey began, we kept our spirits up. — Ezaz Kasmani

> Returning home is another hurdle we will have to cross when the time comes. Right now, we are trying not to think about it. —Shabeena Kasmani

> Coming to India and playing here is a different feeling. That's the beauty of sport. It helps navigate tough times. — Manohar Hegde

Indian cagers return home

Amit.Sampat@timesofindia.com

Nagpur: The Indian men's basketball team travelled 328 km by road from Doha in Qatar to Dammam in Saudi Arabia to board their return flight home after spending 10 long days stranded in the Gulf region amid escalating tensions.

On Tuesday morning, the 18-member Indian contingent, along with American head coach Scott Flemming, landed in Mumbai and Lucknow in two groups. The team began their return journey on Sunday, travelling by road from Doha to Dammam via the Salwa border crossing.

"This was the safest and best mode of travel. All the civilians were using this route to reach their destinations. Everything was safe around us and we didn't see any war-like activities during our return journey," India shooting guard Harsh Dagar told TOI.

The Indian squad had travelled to Qatar to compete in Window 2 of the Asian qualifiers for the 2027 FIBA Basketball World Cup. After losing 73-99 to hosts Qatar last month, the team was scheduled to travel to Beirut to face Lebanon before the conflict escalated, leaving the contingent stranded in Doha. Once flight operations resumed, the BFI and the Indian embassies in Qatar and Saudi Arabia began the visa process. With limited flight availability, the players departed in two batches, bringing an end to their 10-day ordeal.

Djoko, Alcaraz battle on; Andreeva exits

Indian Wells: Novak Djokovic and Carlos Alcaraz were both made to work hard before reaching the fourth round of Indian Wells on Monday but defending women's champion Mirra Andreeva crashed out.

Third seed Djokovic overcame a second-set reverse to beat American Aleksandar Kovacevic 6-4, 1-6, 6-4 and reach the last 16 for the first time since 2017. He has set up a clash with holder Jack Draper, who swept past Francisco Cerundolo 6-1, 7-5.

TENNIS

Alcaraz was also tested by Arthur Rinderknech, but the world number one recovered to prevail 6-7(6), 6-3, 6-2. Up next for the twice champion is Casper Ruud, who downed Rinderknech's cousin Valentin Vacherot 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

BIG UPSET

Katerina Siniakova caused the biggest upset of the day in the women's draw by beating Andreeva 4-6, 7-6(5), 6-3, prompting the defending champion to throw her racket towards her chair and storm off the court after shouting at a section of the crowd. **Results (3rd round): Men:** 1-Carlos Alcaraz (Esp) bt 26-Arthur Rinderknech (Fra) 6-7 (6/8), 6-3, 6-2; 13-Casper Ruud (Nor) bt 24-Valentin Vacherot (Mon) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; Rinky Hijikata (Aus) bt 10-Alexander Bublik (Kaz) 6-7 (3/7), 7-6 (7/3), 6-3; 3-Novak Djokovic (Srb) bt Aleksandar Kovacevic (USA) 6-4, 1-6, 6-4; 14-Jack Draper (GBR) bt 19-Francisco Cerundolo (Arg) 6-1, 7-5; 11-Daniil Medvedev (Rus) bt Sebastián Báez (Arg) 6-4, 6-0; Alex Michelsen (USA) bt 7-Taylor Fritz (USA) 6-4, 7-6 (8/6). **Women:** 5-Jessica Pegula (USA) bt 26-Jelena Ostapenko (Lat) 4-6, 6-3, 6-2; Sonay Kartal (GBR) bt 15-Madison Keys (USA) 2-6, 6-2, 6-3; 3-Elena Rybakina (Kaz) bt 28-Marta Kostyuk (Ukr) 6-4, 6-4; Katerina Siniaková (Cze) bt 8-Mirra Andreeva (Rus) 4-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-3; 9-Elina Svitolina (Ukr) bt Ashlyn Krueger (USA) 6-4, 6-2; 2-Iga Swiatek (Pol) bt 32-Maria Sakkari (Gre) 6-3, 6-2. AGENCIES

Reuters

STUNNER: Katerina Siniakova

India eye semis berth

Shiva.Gundra @timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: Hosts India look to seal the semifinal spot when they take on Wales in their final league match in Pool B of the FIH hockey women's World Cup qualifiers at the Gachibowli stadium on Wednesday night.

India recorded a commanding 4-0 win in the opener against Uruguay and shared the spoils with Scotland 2-2 in their second game. They currently top Pool B with four points. Scotland have as many but are second on goal difference. A win or draw will help both India and Scotland advance as the top two from the group move up.

HOCKEY

Led by Salima Tete, the Indian defence weathered a stiff test by the strong Scottish team. For the hosts, Sunelita Toppo has scored a goal each in both the games while Navneet Kaur, Rutuja Dadaso, Larlemsiami and Ishika have also found the back of the net. However, they've been found wanting in converting penalty corners, a fact head coach Sjoerd Marijne acknowledged after their clash against Scotland. "We had to win this match. We had nine PCs. We had enough possibilities to score more. But this is also learning. I am happy the way the girls pushed," said the Dutchman. Speaking about the clash against Wales, he said, "It is an important match for us to get into the semifinal. We are confident we will do better."

Today's fixtures: England vs Austria, Italy vs Korea, Uruguay vs Scotland, India vs Wales.

TOI

Sport in the shadow of conflict

Arnab.Seal@timesofindia.com

Bhubaneswar: Competition travelled to the Bhubaneswar Challenge on the Volleyball World Beach Pro Tour. So did fear. Israel's beach volleyball pair Eylon Elazar and Kevin Cuzmiciov arrived here chasing points on the global tour. They leave with a bronze medal — and days of worry over a widening US-Israel-Iran conflict.

TOUGH TIMES

Players competing thousands of kilometres away from West Asia tried to focus on serves and spikes, but phones, news alerts and family messages became constant distractions. Travel chaos thinned out the tournament field. Originally, athletes from 52 countries were expected for the tournament. In the end, about 100 participants from roughly 30 nations managed to reach here. Elazar and Cuzmiciov nearly missed the tournament. "We were on one of the last two flights coming out of Tel Aviv before they closed the airspace," Elazar said.

"Then in Abu Dhabi we waited for two days, after which we took one of the 15 flights departing from there and came to Bengaluru."

For American teams, travel uncertainty has become a new source of stress. US coach Edward Keller said: "How can we fly around the world to play competitions with these airspaces getting interrupted?"

Six US teams — three men's and three women's — reached Bhubaneswar. More were expected but could not travel because of visa complications and conflict-linked disruptions. "It's uncertain how safe it's going to be in different parts of the world," Keller said. "War can just happen at any time for no good reason."

For others, the journey home looks daunting.

Danish pair Nicolai Hovmann Overgaard and Jacob Stein Brinck face a marathon route after scrapping their original tickets following a semifinal run.

"We will fly from Bhubaneswar to Mumbai, then from Mumbai to Baku," Brinck said. "From Baku we go to Tbilisi, then to Istanbul and Copenhagen before finally heading home."

Away from the chaos: Israel's Kevin Cuzmiciov (left) and Eylon Elazar in Bhubaneswar on Sunday

REGD. NO: CPMG/KA/GPO-31/2003-05. RNI NO: 45486/85. Published for the proprietors, Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd., by Manjeet Singh Dhami at Bennett Coleman & Co. Ltd., Elixir Chancery Building, 1st, 2nd and 4th Floor, 135, Residency Road, Shanthala Nagar, Bengaluru - 560025 (Phones: Office: EPABX: 080-42250000, Editorial: 080-46787878) and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru - 560099 (Ph: 080-22893999). Regd office: Dr. D.N. Road, Mumbai - 400001. Editor (Bengaluru Market) Neelam Raaj- responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

TIMES SPORT

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026

ANDREEVA THROWS TANTRUM, SMASHES RACKET IN INDIAN WELLS DEFEAT TO SINIAKOVA

LATEST NEYMAR INJURY DOUBT CASTS SHADOW OVER BRAZIL RECALL HOPES FOR WORLD CUP

Gambhir, Agarkar Tasted Success Taking Harsh Calls. Will They Stick To Their Principles As They Plan For The LA Games & T20 WC In 2028? But Wait, There's An ODI World Cup In The Interim...

IS IT RESET OR CONTINUITY?

THE PATH AHEAD: India's T20 captain Suryakumar Yadav with coach Gautam Gambhir and chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar during the World Cup

Arani.Basu@timesofindia.com

Moments after lifting the T20 World Cup on Sunday night, Suryakumar Yadav stated upfront that winning an Olympic gold medal in Los Angeles in 2028 is the next target for India now. Was an all-conquering team getting ahead of themselves in the immediate glow of victory, or were the captain's comments of future conquests backed by definite plan and philosophy?

India's T20 renaissance began by overhauling the approach on the day England hammered them in the T20 World Cup semifinal in 2022.

The triumph in June 2024 vindicated the call taken in Nov 2022. This is where head coach Gautam Gambhir and chief selectors Ajit Agarkar stepped in and announced that the process of becoming a T20 superpower didn't stop in Barbados with Rohit Sharma lifting India's first ICC trophy in 11 years.

The process got harsher and thankless. Designated vice-captain Hardik Pandya was not considered for leadership role anymore due to his persisting injury concerns. Surya assumed charge as captain. Rishabh Pant and Yashasvi Jaiswal, part of the 2024 World Cup-winning squad, fell down the pecking order. Kuldeep Yadav, lead spinner in 2024, became second choice to Varun Chakravarthy. Enough has been spoken about Shubman Gill's elevation to T20 vice-captaincy and then his eventual axe from the World Cup team.

The blink-and-miss nature of T20 cricket doesn't give you much time to breathe easy. Gambhir and Agarkar have successfully drilled it into the players they backed to defend India's T20 crown — the composition of T20 squads were based on the conditions expected in the World Cup.

As much as the skills of the players were important, the ethos of this management drove the performances. Gambhir, for one, will not tire of his 'team-over-individual' and 'results-over-milestones' philosophy. He set out to eliminate the 'superstar culture' in the dressing room.

Perhaps, the true test of Gambhir and Agarkar's philosophies start from here onwards. The emphatic triumph has given Indian fans a new set of superstars. Surya's name will be placed next to Kapil Dev, MS Dhoni and Rohit Sharma in the list of World Cup-winning captains.

Former India selector Devang Gandhi says people must not confuse superstar culture with privilege. "Indian cricket will always throw up superstars. Every sport will have superstars. People need to understand if the player is exercising undue entitlements like travelling alone and staying separately from the rest of the team. Because all that affects the dressing room culture. Big players will go through an odd slump. I am sure the selectors and the team management understand this. It's all about what the player brings to the team," Gandhi said.

In the lead up to the ODI World Cup in South Africa in Oct-Nov 2027, the primary focus of Gambhir and Agarkar will understandably shift to stabilising the ODI team, which has been experiencing frequent wobbles of late. But the T20 World Cups keep coming thick and fast. With the Olympics and T20 World Cup in 2028, India will be playing two major T20 events inside a year after the 2027 ODI World Cup.

Under Gambhir, India have successfully set a T20 template that other teams will try to replicate. Rational thinking says there needs to be continuity. But the greatest conflict here is that Gambhir himself has advocated flexibility (and countered predictability) as the essence of playing T20 cricket.

Surya's prolonged run of poor form and Varun Chakravarthy's mystery spin getting found out will be at the top of the concern list for the head coach and chief selector. Winning the trophy has given both Gambhir and Agarkar some breathing space when it comes to identifying the next leader, especially after Project Gill crashed a month before the World Cup.

"I don't see there's any need to bring about immediate changes. This set of boys are more T20 specialists and are extremely high on confidence. That said, I am sure Gambhir and the selectors will not leave any room for complacency in the dressing room. The focus will be on the ODI team. But I am sure they will be closely monitoring the T20 team's performances after a couple of series. They are known for taking tough calls and I don't think they will budge from that philosophy," former India wicketkeeper Deep Dasgupta told **TOI**. "Just as they prepared for this World Cup in India, surely they will judge the players' ability in SENA countries since the next cycle of ICC events will happen in South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. They will surely keep an eye out for players for those conditions."

Gambhir and Agarkar have endured constant criticism for all the bold calls they have taken over the last 18 months. They have been very tough to bring about this cultural shift in Indian cricket. Perhaps, it's time to get tougher.

BCCI announces ₹131 crore reward

New Delhi: The BCCI on Tuesday announced a cash reward of Rs 131 crore for the entire Indian squad following its third T20 World Cup victory. The amount covers 15 players, coaching staff, other support staff.

As per sources, the players are certain to get lion's share of the reward money while support staff amount will be decided as per hierarchy. The amount is an increment of Rs 6 crore from the Rs 125 crore that Rohit Sharma's team was awarded back in 2024.

As per sources, each of the 15 players will receive Rs 6 crore each while remaining Rs 41 crore will be distributed among entire support staff.

"The Board congratulates the players, support staff and selectors once again on this historic achievement and wishes them continued success in the future," BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said in a statement. India lifted the trophy after defeating New Zealand by 96 runs in the final in Ahmedabad on Sunday, successfully defending the title and becoming the first team in the history of the tournament to retain the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. PTI

Arshdeep fined for hurling ball at Mitchell

Dubai: India fast bowler Arshdeep Singh was fined by the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday after an incident during the T20 World Cup final when he hurled the ball at New Zealand batsman Daryl Mitchell.

In the 11th over of New Zealand's chase on Sunday, Mitchell played the ball to Arshdeep and the bowler threw it straight back at him, hitting the New Zealand batter on the pads.

Mitchell was livid and advanced on Arshdeep, who turned around and walked back without apologising

The ICC said Arshdeep breached the ICC Code of Conduct for "throwing a ball (or any other item of cricket equipment) at or near a player in an inappropriate and/or dangerous manner", handing him a fine of 15% of his match fee.

Arshdeep, who apologised to Mitchell at the end of the over and again after the match, accepted the sanction. AGENCIES

Sanju's 97 was turning point: Gambhir

AFP

Sanju Samson in plays a pull shot against West Indies

New Delhi: India head coach Gautam Gambhir credited Sanju Samson's 97 against the West Indies as the turning point in India's triumphant campaign at the T20 World Cup.

"It's very difficult to say, but I still believe that Sanju's 97 against West Indies was the turning point of this campaign. It was a virtual quarterfinal. Chasing 195 in a World Cup game is never easy, irrespective of the ground," Gambhir said on JioStar.

Samson's calm approach, he said, changed the mood in the dressing room. "With the ease and calmness with which he batted, it gave us a lot of confidence in the group that now we were probably on the right track," Gambhir added.

Another factor behind India's success, Gambhir said, was the players' willingness to adapt to different roles. The coach highlighted that the flexibility began with captain Suryakumar Yadav, who was willing to adjust his role. "In the semifinal, Shivam got promoted, and Surya was absolutely fine with it. In the final, Hardik was promoted and the captain was fine with it," Gambhir said. IANS

'Feels good to join the elite company of Rohit, Dhoni'

Mumbai: Two days after captaining India to the T20 World Cup title, Suryakumar Yadav is slowly taking in the enormity of the achievement. On being compared to the likes of Rohit Sharma and MS Dhoni, who too helped the team lift ICC trophies, he said: "I am slowly feeling it. It is a very special feeling to be talked about among such great people." PTI

'My performance will motivate youngsters'

Adwitiya.Deb@timesofindia.com

Patna: Early in 2024 it seemed all over for Ishan Kishan. The left-handed batter was dropped from BCCI's central contracts list on the back of taking a break during the tour of South Africa and not playing domestic cricket despite the board's diktat.

Two years down the line Kishan has showed that he belongs at the top with the very best after playing a pivotal role in helping India defend the T20 World Cup and on return to Patna on Tuesday, he was given a hero's welcome.

"My performance and the team's success serve as significant motivation for young children from Bihar and elsewhere who aspire to grow in the sport," said the wicketkeeper-batter.

"I felt the better I perform, the more motivation it will provide for the young children from here who want to move forward," he stated.

Ranjeet Kumar

Ishan Kishan was received by family and fans in Patna on Tuesday

Despite the success on the field, Kishan faced a heartbreaking loss off it as his maternal cousin, Patna High Court advocate Vaishnavi Singh, and her husband, Ritwik Thakur, died in a road accident a day before the final on Saturday.

He, however, didn't let the tragic loss affect him and scored 54 off 25 balls in the final. Ishan had also made a 40-ball 77 against Pakistan and 24-ball 61 against Namibia as overall he amassed 317 runs from nine matches.

It's not the first time that he has risen above adversities.

Last year, he got back into the BCCI central contract and took Jharkhand to victory in Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy where he was the highest scorer with 517 runs. It was enough to get a call-up to the T20 World Cup team and he did not disappoint.

"Having played the World Cup now, it shows that you just have to work hard and you can move forward from anywhere," Kishan added.

'After Paris, it has been a good learning process'

Working With Mental Conditioning Coach Brokman, Lakshya Is Focusing On One Match At A Time

M.Ratnakar@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: The way Lakshya Sen fashioned his campaign at the All England Championships in Birmingham this year has been nothing short of inspirational.

In some ways it was similar to what had happened to him at the Paris Olympics, where he lost the bronze medal to Lee Zii Jia after leading 21-13, 7-2.

He found himself in familiar territory in the All England semifinal against Victor Lai, when up 14-9, he started cramping and blisters hampered his mobility. Lai won five of the next seven points to make it 14-16. Old questions surfaced: that Lakshya can't close out matches. But the Indian refused to give in and played through the pain barrier to prevail.

It was clear a lot has changed in the last 20 months. "Mentally it has been quite challenging to come back from such a big loss, returning to the circuit and playing well in the last few months. It has been a good learning process. After Paris, I have grown as a player and tried to take things in my stride. I tried to keep things very simple, just focus on one match at a time and not think of winning every tournament," Lakshya said on Tuesday.

The Paris loss affected Team Lakshya and the family too. "He always had a steely resolve. Vimal ji and others got a good team to support him," said his father DK Sen, who is also an important member of the training team.

Mental conditioning coach Mon Nimrod Brokman of Israel came on board. "I've been working with him (Brokman) for a year. I learnt so many things about mental training. We started approaching tournaments in a different manner. I started playing 500s for preparation and did not take those losses seriously. Dad and I discussed a lot about them. Going into the big tournament the approach will be a lot different," Lakshya said.

The mental conditioning helped Lakshya in the All England semifinals. "The semifinals (against Viktor Lai) was tricky as I started cramping very early in the third set. I had to lock all those things that were coming into my head, like 'whether I will be able to finish the match or not, whether cramps will get too bad for me to finish'. But I was trying to test myself that day, just play one more point and see how far I can go," Lakshya said.

Lakshya admitted that post-match recovery and preparation have become important components of the modern game. "Matches have become very physical. I am not 20 to recover fast. I'm not saying I'm old. There are changes that you make in terms of preparation, recovery for the next match and especially the diet. When I was 21-22, I would not gain weight even if I ate everything. But now there's a slight difference...A lot of things I have to manage with regard to recovery," said Lakshya, adding that workload management has also become crucial.

"I also had shoulder injuries and it showed because I was playing attacking shots better in the last few years. But over time, you become cautious about how much you can push, how many matches you can play and then you have to give it rest...I am taking more care in between tournaments to stay injury free," he added.

Only the second Indian after Prakash Padukone to reach two All England finals, Lakshya said this tournament has a special place. "It's a special tournament to play. As a young kid, I always wanted to win many titles starting with All England...I play well here," he said.

With the Asian Games and the World Championships at home coming up, Lakshya said he will analyse the All England campaign with his team. "Those are the two major events I will be playing this year."

AFP

Mbappe absence deepens Real's problems against City

Madrid: Kylian Mbappe was not with Real Madrid for training on Tuesday ahead of a crucial Champions League game against Manchester City as coach Alvaro Arbeloa suggested the French striker could return soon.

Mbappe hasn't played since Feb 21 because of a knee problem. Rarely do record 15-time winners Real Madrid enter a Champions League clash as underdogs. Key attackers Jude Bellingham and Rodrygo Goes are also set to miss the game because of injury.

Man City beat Madrid in the league phase in the Spanish capital and have strengthened since then, with Antoine Semenyo and Marc Guehi arriving, while midfielder Rodri is fit after missing that match.

Xabi Alonso was at Madrid's helm then. But his successor Arbeloa has not got the team playing with more quality or consistency.

Perhaps his biggest success has been helping winger Vinicius Junior back to form, and the Brazilian represents Real Madrid's best hope of success against City. The winger was key in Madrid's triumph over Jose Mourinho's Benfica in the play-off round, despite allegedly being racially abused in the first leg by Benfica's Gianluca Prestianni, who denies it.

Arbeloa called on Madrid's supporters to inspire the team against City. "We need them, we need them on Wednesday, and they know it better than anyone," said Arbeloa.

Guardiola may look to exploit Trent Alexander-Arnold's defensive frailty.

Another positive for Arbeloa, of which there have been few since his arrival in Jan, has been the solid displays of Aurelien Tchouameni and Valverde. They can offer the steel which Madrid need to withstand the might of Haaland and company.

Neves fitness boost for PSG

Paris: Portugal midfielder Joao Neves returned to training with Paris Saint-Germain on Tuesday, putting him in contention to play against Chelsea. That's a boost to PSG coach Luis Enrique, whose powerful midfield which helped the team win the competition for the first time last season is currently shorn of Fabian Ruiz because of a knee injury that has sidelined the Spaniard since mid-January. PSG lost to Chelsea 3-0 in July in the final of the Club World Cup. AGENCIES

Bhatia the big draw at $2.55m Indian Open

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Despite travel restrictions because of the West Asia conflict, the Hero Indian Open expects a stronger field than last year. Returning to the DLF G&CC in Gurugram from March 26 to 29, the National Open, which is co-sanctioned by the DP World Tour and IGU, also offers a record prize purse of $2.55 million, an increase from the $2.25 million a year ago.

The field will be led by the 24-year-old American of Indian origin, Akshay Bhatia, who arrives in India riding a surge of momentum after winning the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill last week, picking up a cool $4m prize. The victory, secured in a playoff, marked Bhatia's third PGA Tour win and elevated him to second place in the FedEx Cup standings.

The Hero brand ambassador, whose parents moved to the US from New Delhi, will be making his first competitive appearance in India. Sahith Theegala, who has one PGA Tour title, is also keen to play but hasn't confirmed his entry yet.

The international field also includes Italy's Francesco Molinari, the 2018 British Open winner and a three-time PGA Tour champion who has been part of three victorious European Ryder Cup teams. Molinari and many other players will be travelling from the Hainan Classic in China.

Spain's Eugenio Chacarra, the defending champion, is set to return to the place that changed the trajectory of his career. Also confirmed is Belgium's Thomas Detry. India's challenge will be led by Veer Ahlawat, a former runner-up at the event, along with Yuvraj Sandhu.

Manisha's wonder goal not enough for India

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Manisha Kalyan scored a wonder goal, one that will be talked about long after the continental showpiece ends. That, however, was not enough as India lost 3-1 against Chinese Taipei and were knocked out of the AFC Women's Asian Cup at the Western Sydney Stadium in Sydney on Tuesday.

Manisha's 39th minute long-range freekick rattled the crossbar and bounced back, creating plenty of confusion inside the Chinese Taipei box. It was so powerful and so lightning quick that referees on the field failed to spot the goal and needed intervention from the video assistant referee (VAR) to confirm that the strike had crossed the goal line.

The goal cancelled Su Yu-Hsuan's 12th-minute opener for Chinese Taipei after the striker capitalised on a defensive lapse. India did pile on the pressure but conceded a penalty in the eighth minute of first-half added time when Pyari Xaxa was penalised for a handball. Hsu Yi-Yun stepped up and saw her effort strike the post before ricocheting off the outstretched goalkeeper Panthoi Chanu's back and rolling into the net.

Chinese Taipei led 2-1 at the breather, scoring from a defensive lapse and an own goal. In the second half, India showed plenty of spirit, but it were the three-time Asian champions who had the last laugh when Yu-Chin beat the offside trap, and the onrushing keeper, to make it 3-1 in the 77th minute.

Worryingly, of bigger concern was Panthoi colliding with captain Sweety Devi, with both needing to be stretched off the field. Accord-

WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP

ing to sources, the two were rushed to the hospital, where test results are awaited.

Panthoi was previously checked for concussion and then allowed to continue by the team doctors after a strong shot struck her face when she attempted to stop Chinese Taipei in a one-on-one situation.

"We are sad at being knocked out but we gave our 100% on the field and worked hard till the final whistle," said Sanfida Nongrum, who scored India's only goal against Vietnam in the opener. "In sports, you have a team that wins and the other one loses. It's part of the game. We learned a lot from this tournament; it was my debut for the national team. I've never seen football like this before."

India finished at the bottom of group C with an all-loss record, while Japan finished as group winners with an all-win record after slamming four past Vietnam in third place in the concluding clash. Chinese Taipei also qualified for the last-eight stage with six points and will face defending champions China in their last-eight tie on Saturday.

Needing to win by at least a two-goal margin to finish second and qualify, India started brightly, forcing Chinese Taipei on the back foot. They won three corner kicks inside the first 15 minutes, made the opponent's goalkeeper work, but lacked composure in the attacking third.

Manisha made Chinese Taipei sweat with three powerful freekicks, one that resulted in a goal. Two of India's attempts also struck the post, but in the end, that was never going to be enough against the three-time Asian champions.

West Ham reach quarters

West Ham moved into the FA Cup quarterfinals with a 5-3 penalty shoot-out win against Brentford, who paid the price for Dango Ouattara's spot-kick blunder on Monday.

Nuno Espirito Santo's side twice blew the lead as Jarrod Bowen's double was cancelled out by an Igor Thiago brace to force extra-time in the 2-2 draw at the London Stadium.

Results: English FA Cup (fifth round): West Ham 2 (Bowen 19, 34-pen) Brentford 2 (Thiago 28, 81-pen) aet, West Ham won 5-3 on penalties. **QF lineup:** Southampton vs Arsenal; Chelsea vs Port Vale; Manchester City vs Liverpool; West Ham vs Leeds. **Italian league:** Lazio 2 (Maldini 2, Marusic 90+2) bt Sassuolo 1 (Lauriente 35). **Spanish league:** Espanyol 1 (Garcia 36) drew with Real Oviedo 1 (Reina 8). AGENCIES

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